The Middle Concourse with its Music Court and Flower Gardens serves as a second focal area of the park. This formal feature, placed on the west edge of the Great Lawn, was raised slightly to emphasize the broad vista stretching over the river and the lawn. An integrated network of paths and drives provided easy access to the gathering place. This relationship to the river was extended in the development of North and South Overlooks, providing additional spaces for vehicles and pedestrians to experience scenic river vistas (Figure 2.2 and 2.3). Near the South Overlook, the ornamental Lily Pond further organizes the space as paths encircle the pond leading pedestrians to the feature.

Paddy's Run is a linear secondary space shaped by topography, drainage and pre-existing vegetation. The Administration area was visually separated by a surround of trees and narrow massing of dense plantings on the ground plane. The visual experience of the park landscapes provided a sequence of differing views that highlighted the park spaces and accented the views over the Ohio River from vantages on the uplands as well as the river slopes.

- Olmsted design shaping park spaces with views, topography, vegetation, circulation
- Views within the park highlight the Great Lawn, divided into two unequal subspaces
- Concourses feature Ohio River views over relatively open river slopes
- Paddy's Run linear subspace defined by topography, stream, vegetation
- Administration screened space, informal trees and massed shrubs/gardens
- Overall variations in depth and character of views contribute to park experience

C. Topography, Grading & Surface Drainage

Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot, Landscape Architects manipulated grades within historic parks to address scenic purposes. Recognizing that the landscapes of Shawnee Park prior to park design were in use by land owner, and as shown of the pre-park survey, included orchard blocks, there was obvious human impact present. Ground shaping is generally a combination of gentle convex and concave arcs that provide a graceful ground plane of rises and hollows. The Olmsted approach to grading addressed layout of circulation systems within and rooted to the landscape often with grades rising to either or both sides, so that drives and paths are visually recessive (Figure 2.4). The Olmsted firm approach to drive and path margins was to use ogee curves, that combined concave and convex arcs to form gentle informally aligned, meandering swales that managed surface drainage.

- Native topography altered using varied concave and convex, spiral curves
- Graceful character inherent in treatment of grades
- Ground plane variety present even with relatively level appearance
- Drives and walks dropped into grade, rolled margins reduce visual presence
- Ogee curves of swales with meandering centerlines drain surface

Buildings are sited for integration into the surrounding topography as well, with positive drainage at perimeters while higher ground nearby may be shaped to reduce building presence and mass. While the Great Lawn may have appeared relatively flat, there were topographic variations that shaped the visual expanse into a series of subspaces. The Great Lawn grading today reflects the field sports uses of the past, rather than the grace of the Olmsted intent. Convex and concave arcs were also used to create sunken flower beds along park drives (Figure 2.5).

D. Vegetation, Trees, Massing & Screening

Olmsted's overall approach to vegetation at Shawnee Park followed his principles of balance and informal symmetry. The 1899 "Shawnee Planting Plan" indicates a higher density of trees and shrubs along the perimeter of the park than the interior. (See Figure 1.3). Trees cluster around the Great Lawn creating an open area once covered in mixed grasses and broad leaf ground cover, including red clover, but today is mown turf (Figure 2.6). Throughout the other areas of the park, relatively open and closed areas were created by varying canopy cover, proximity of trees to walks and drives, and groves across an open ground plane. Other Shawnee Park and Olmsted design common elements include design principles identified by the National Association for Olmsted Parks: taking advantage of the unique characteristics of the site; creation of a unified composition with subordinate complexities, orchestration of movement and use; environmental sensitivity pared with long-term maintenance; and comprehensive community integration.

Shawnee Park Planting Approach

- Alternating expanses of lawn and clusters of trees
- Informally arranged trees provide vegetation structure
- Naturalistic layout blended existing and new
- Dense perimeter vegetation
- Principles of balance and informal symmetry
- Repetition of scenery with highlighted variations
- Irregular patterns of open and closed spaces

E. Circulation, Drives & Walks

The historic system of walks and drives as originally designed organized movement and revealed a sequence of views through the Shawnee Park landscape. The framework of the park was an integrated circulation system, with gracefully curving interior paths leading to scenic views of the Great Lawn and river overlooks, and interior drives that provided a similar aesthetic suitable for vehicular speeds. Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. designed walks to afford occasionally open views into the expanse of the Great Lawn that would reinforce visual access and provide a personal sense of place. Olmsted described the grace that should pervade park circulation in 1868:

> *…a park as a work of design… should be a ground which invites, encourages & facilitates movement, its topographical conditions such as make movement a pleasure; such as offer inducements in variety… for easy movement... yet all of a simple character & such as appeal to the common & elementary impulses of all classes of mankind. But the quality of ease must underlie the whole."* Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., Address to the Prospect Park Scientific Association, 1868, NPS FLONHS, Archives

The original layout included spiral curves that naturally drew park visitors along without monotony while gentle grades secured ease of movement. Olmsted often employed the use of triangular intersections to allow comfortable curves and create a larger landscape setting with a functional purpose (Figure 2.7). The artful detailing of walks and drives corresponded to the grace of their layout. Around the Great Lawn, walks were set into the grade so that the pillowed edges of the open turf would appear to extend

into the tree line when viewed from afar (Figure 2.8). When walks and drives were parallel, the path surface was often elevated above surrounding grades to provide a greater prospect over the park. Drives were sunk into the grades to reduce the presence of automobiles and accentuate pedestrian dominance (Figures 2.9 and 2.10).

Drives were equally important as walks in Shawnee Park and were designed to incorporate the higher speed of movement. Historic surfaces were typically stabilized gravel for paths and asphalt with stone cobble gutters for drives. Informal and asymmetrical rows of trees marked the edges of roads except in the most formal of areas where regular tree allées created a different visual order (Figure 2.11). Lighting was placed directly along drives to identify primary networks and cast indirect light on paths (Figure 2.12). The gently meandering drives begin from three points of access at public streets and circumnavigate the Great Lawn and the related main features.

Drives and Walks Layout and Details

- Layout of drives and walks ease movements
- Employ graceful spiral curves with varying arcs
- Triangular intersections shape easy turnings
- Drives and walks edged with informal trees
- Stabilized gravel walks with lawn on either side
- Asphalt drives with cobble gutters and curbs
- Walks and drives set into the grade when lawn dominates
- Walks appear elevated over drives for pedestrian dominance

Rustic bridges are integral to the system of walks and drives at Shawnee Park. Small-scale bridges are typically set against lawn and integrated with vegetation and the surrounding landscape. The walk and drive at the Chestnut Street entry cross Paddy's Run via a small bridge with three-foot high, brick wing walls topped with terracotta. This layered approach to setting bridges in to the landscape enables the structures to blend into the surrounding terrain and creates a scenic ensemble for the system of walks and drives.

Park Bridges Summary

- Feature of scenic circulation ensemble
- Separation of walks and drives across bridge
- Set within lawn and plantings
- Blended into surrounds with boulders, shrubs and vines
- Chestnut St. Bridge 3-foot high, brick walls topped with terracotta coping

F. Water Features

The siting and design of Shawnee Park is deeply related to water features. Located on the Ohio River, the heritage of Louisville has been molded by the regionally important water feature. A bluff overlooking the Ohio River offers great views and existing landscape to develop the park. This site provides an ideal area for Louisville citizens and visitors to enjoy the prominent river and connect to a significant component of the local history. The Olmsted firm utilizes the existing landscape and river

vistas as an integral part of the park design creating the North and South Concourses for river overlooks and the River Terrace to allow patrons an even closer view.

Other original water features include a creek flowing through Paddy's Run and the Lily Pond located within the South Concourse. The Olmsted firm incorporates the preexisting creek into the Paddy's Run design maintaining the water features and surrounding trees. Added bridges and plantings successfully unify the area with the remainder of the park. Using a preexisting pond, the planned Lily Pond showcases a free-formed, soft edge providing space for vegetation to grow. Floating vegetation also adds interest to the surface of the pond. In the Olmstedian fashion, curvilinear planting beds lie around the naturalized perimeter and on a small island in the west half of the pond (Figure 2.13). Tall trees grow farther removed from the banks of the pond creating an open area around the feature (Figure 2.14). Formal and information paths provided access to the area (Figure 2.15). A boat house stood near in a similar style as other buildings in the park.

Water Feature Character

- Original or shaped naturalistic margins of pond, creek, shoreline
- Edge plantings and floating aquatic vegetation
- Provision of water access with landings, beaches, docks
- Circulation around or along the water feature
- Adjacent planted trees and shrubs beds
- Hipped-roof pavilions

In the 1920s, an oval spray pool is installed near the tennis courts, playgrounds, and picnic groves north of the Great Lawn for the enjoyment of visitors during the hot summers (Figure 2.16).

G. Buildings & Structures

The historic record indicates that the Administration area, Field House, Pavilion at the Lily Pond, Shelter overlooking the Great Lawn and Gazebo at the Middle Concourse formed the compliment of early buildings constructed in Shawnee Park between 1890s and 1920s. These structures vary in scale and detail. However, simple hip roofs dominate the roof forms, which tend to hover over the landscape with a recessive form rather than providing a strong profile against the sky. Buildings had relatively low heights, perhaps 20 to 25 feet to the ridge line. Roofs material appears to be tile, in deep green tones. Wall materials varied with the Field House walls in red brick designed in decorative panels and the Shelter in cast stone with columns, balustrade and base wall, all light gray to beige tone (Figures 2.17 and 2.18). The brick bridge at the Chestnut Street entry with ceramic glazed tile cap adds to the red brick vocabulary. A small pavilion, perhaps 20-24 feet in height, is also present. Set on an open base of six concentric hexagonal ascending steps, the simple pole and bracket structure, painted white, supports the roof. The open structure has a hexagonal domed roof, shown on a hand-colored postcard in olive green, with a cupola and spire (Figure 2.19).

The Administration area diverges from these park structure design constructs as it appears to be a rural residential grouping. The sole image located, a hand colored postcard, shows a two story frame residence and a tall barn building set behind detailed, massed plantings, with detailed rooflines seen against the sky (Figure 2.20). The roof materials are colored a terracotta, red brick tone, while the

building walls are white or cream. Barn walls appear to be weathered-board or shingle gray in this blurry view.

Early Building Character

- Careful siting within the park landscape for effective integration
- Hip roof forms
- Simple recessive profile against the sky
- Relatively low heights 20 – 25 feet with exception of Administration
- Dark green or brick red roof colors
- Roof tiles or metal cladding
- White to cream posts or walls
- Red Brick walls at Field House
- Wood or cast stone materials for base, balustrades, posts

Diverging from the original Olmsted design, the second build period was post-flood late 1930s when large and small flood control structures, the Music Pavilion, and the Maintenance Yard building cluster were all constructed (Figure 2.21). The flood control buildings, both large and small, are functional boxes without aesthetic detailing. The largest of these, sited along the park loop drive to the northeast, is visually prominent and imposing.

The maintenance yard has three modest buildings with two of these connected by a garage. These cream brick buildings have simple low slope shed roofs, repetitive same size windows and modest roof overhangs with brackets on one façade. These buildings are all characterized by glazed cream brick walls. If the 1938 Maintenance yard buildings can be reused, they may serve contemporary purposes. If not, the detailing of the historic buildings, itemized above, should guide new construction.

H. Objects & Furnishings

The initial build of Shawnee Park showcases minimal to no objects or small scale furnishings. It is unclear if the objects were placed by the Olmsted firm or the Louisville Parks Department, however the few features placed in specific areas allows the park landscape to dominate the space. The precise location of every object remains undocumented, but typical Olmstedian design style places objects in areas highlighting the landscape. This leads to benches taking advantage of views and functional points of congregation and lights enhancing movement safety along drives and pedestrian paths. (See Figure 2.11 and Figures 2.22 and 2.23). The full capture and understanding of all objects is incomplete, but never the less the Olmsted style of design dictates the general placement of function objects without cluttering the landscape.

The Waller Memorial Fountain remains the only known furnishing contributed to by the Olmsted firm offering recommendations on the siting of the feature. Similar to other objects, the well-intentioned siting of the formal element incorporated it into the West Broadway entry, as opposed to the interior of the scenic park. Designed and sited in 1916, plans specify the design and materials of the Bedford buff limestone memorial, including a curved bench, two drinking fountains at both ends of the half-circle bench, a pedestal-elevated sundial, and a marble tablet set within the back of the bench (Figure 2.24).

Shawnee Park Objects & Furnishings

- Lighting spaced around perimeter and interior main road
- Seating carefully placed to take advantage of views
- No small unnecessary object clutter
- Waller Memorial Bench
- Later additions – signs, flag pole, bird sculptor, WPA wood bollards, small ground and elevated planters

Later additions altered the original design intent of the Olmstedian design. Objects, such as signs, a flag pole centered in the Great Lawn, a bird sculpture set atop a topiary pedestal at the Middle Concourse, wooden bollards, and small planters, created visual clutter not envisioned in the park. (See Figure 2.22). The initial scheme allowed the landscape and views to dominate, as opposed to objects dividing visitors' attention.

Figure 2.1 The photograph of the Great Lawn illustrates the sweeping views of the expansive open space. Perimeter trees define the space, as interior clusters provide perspective of the sheer size of the lawn. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-Great Lawn)

Figure 2.2 The 1893 view of the River Terrace shows the scenic river vistas as integral to the design of the park. The remaining trees defined the western edge of the park. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-River Terrace-1893)

Figure 2.3 Part of the circulation route, the North Concourse provides access to the northwest corner of the park. Views extending over the river dominated the space. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-North Concourse-c1920)

Figure 2.4 This image of paving the park drive also shows the slight topographical grade change on either side of the road. The typical Olmstedian approach allows the road to recede from sight as it is tucked below the grade of the lawn. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-parkway paving)

Figure 2.5 Topographical changes add interest to the park landscape. In the Middle Concourse, convex and concave arcs create sunken flower beds. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-sunken flower beds)

Figure 2.6 The 1937 photograph shows the typical mixed grasses and broad leaf ground covers, including red clover and common daisy, of the Great Lawn. Mature perimeter trees can be seen in the background. Courtesy University of Kentucky. (R-SPU- UKY -turf in shawnee park-1937)

Figure 2.7 The Olmsted firm utilizes curves and triangular intersections to create comfortable and sweeping paths guiding visitors through the space to various points of interest. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-triangular path intersection)

Figure 2.8 Similar to the drives, pedestrian paths lie below lawn grade tucking into the landscape and out of sightlines. Patrons standing to the east would not see the path, but perceive the lawn extending to the tree line. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (SPU-LOPC-sunken paths)

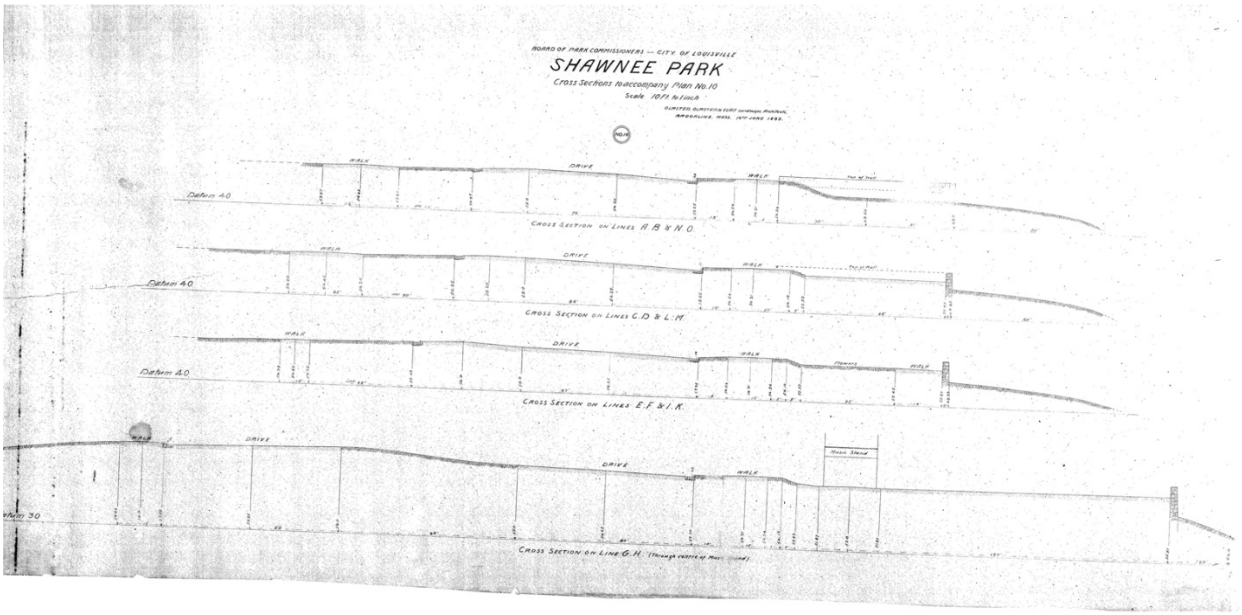


Figure 2.9 The 1893 section illustrates the design of the sunken drives throughout the park. The intent allowed pedestrian circulation to dominate the landscapes, as the drives presence is reduced. Courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. (R-SPU-FLONHS-01269-2-Sections17-15Jun1893)

Figure 2.10 This image shows both the sunken vehicular drive and more prominent pedestrian path. Crushed gravel provided a base for the pedestrian paths, while paving overlaid the drives. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (SPU-LOPC-ped walks and drives)

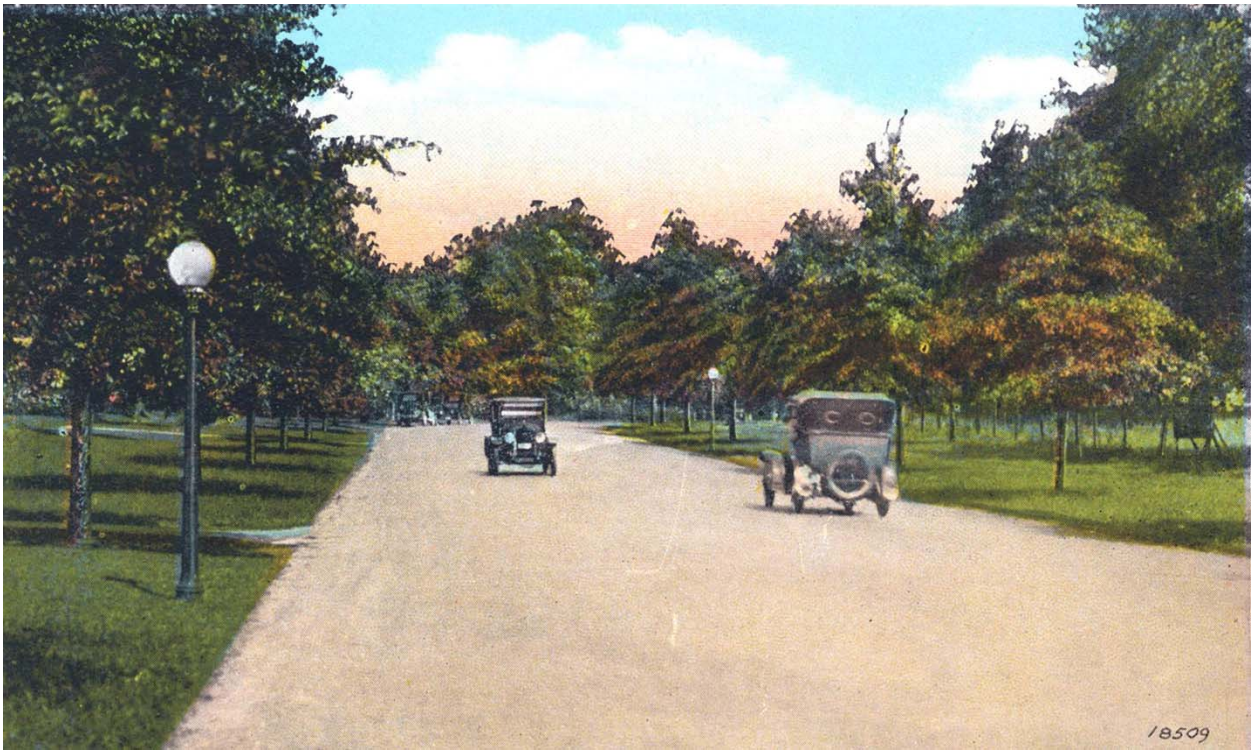


Figure 2.11 The c1920s postcard of a Shawnee Park drive shows the formal tree allées growing on either side of the park drive. The trees create a specific order to the space delineating it from other park areas. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (SPU-LOPC-Drive postcard-c1920s)

Figure 2.12 This c1939 photograpch shows the relationship between a park drive, pedestrian path, trees, and lights. Lights placed along roads illuminate the drives and paths for movement safety. The formal street trees and light posts delineate the drive as a prominent feature in the landscape. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-Field House and drive-c1939)

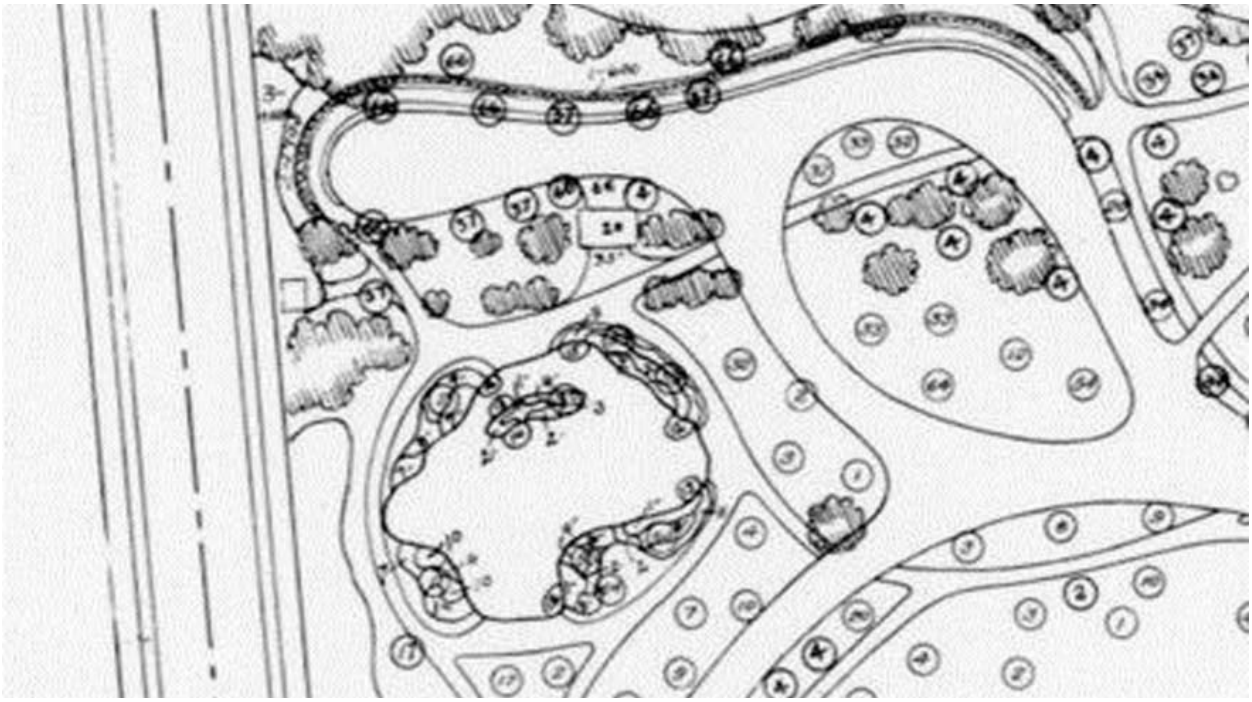


Figure 2.13 A detail of the 1899 "Shawnee Park Planting Plan" illustrates the design intent for the area surrounding the Lily Pond in the South Concourse. Curving planting beds surround the natural edge of the water feature. Courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. (R-SPU-FLONHS-01269-0-RevPlantPlan36-21Jan1899-Lilly Pond Detail)

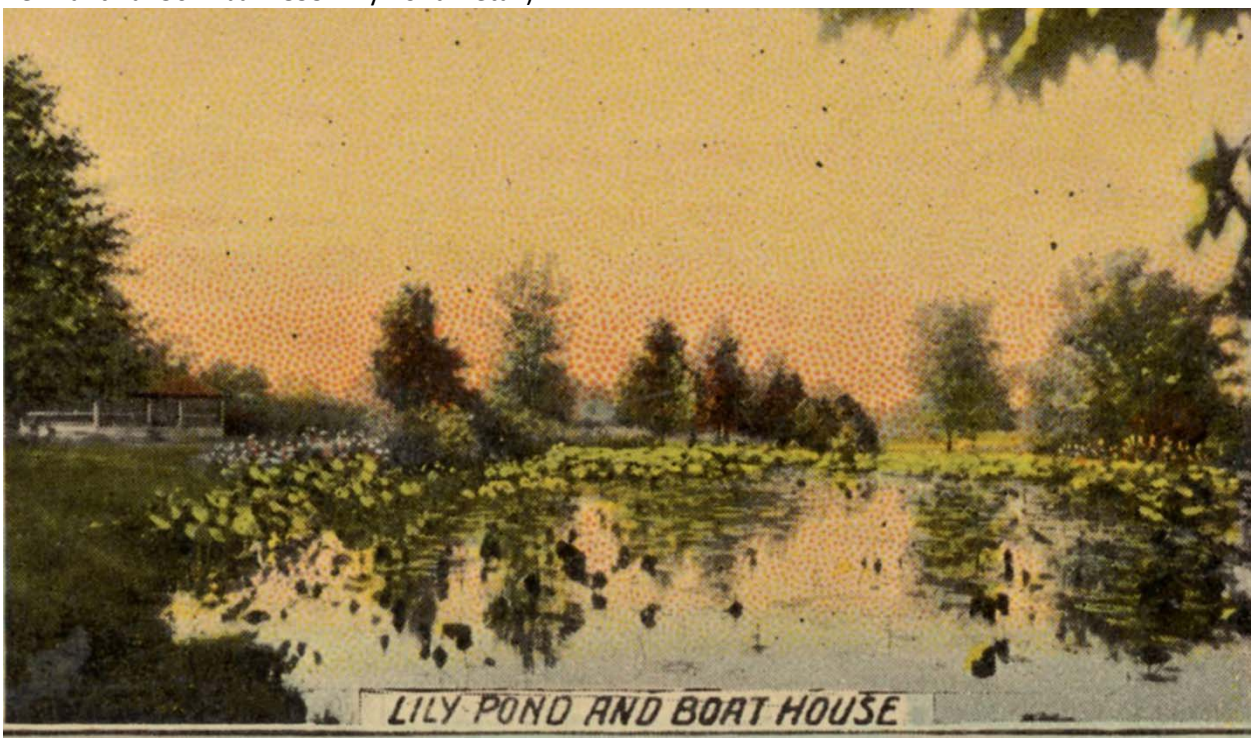


Figure 2.14 This postcard shows the natural, vegetative edge of the water feature and generally open space with trees removed from the edge. The Lily Pond Pavilion can be seen in the background. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC- lily pond pc_163)

Figure 2.15 The naturalized edge with flourishing vegetation can also be seen in this postcard. Formal paths lead to the Lily Pond Pavilion, while informal patron-created walking paths extend to the water edge. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC- lily pond pavilion pc_19)

Figure 2.16 Located at the north end of the Great Lawn,, the oval spray pool added in the 1920s offers patrons enjoyable relief from the summer heat. Tree clusters and a structure with typical hip-roof stand in the background of the image. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-spray pool)

Figure 2.17 The c1930s photograph shows a path leading to the hipped-roof, brick field house. Mature trees grow behind, while smaller trees surround the structure. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (SPU-LOPC-Field House-c193

Figure 2.18 A similar hipped-roof caps a second Olmstedian structure in Shawnee Park. This open air pavilion is set among mature trees. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (SPU-LOPC-Open pavilion)

Figure 2.19 The small pavilion with domed roof and concentric hexagonal ascending stairs sits among the flower beds of the Middle Concourse. The sunken topography separates the area from the park drive. Courtesy Kentucky Digital Library. (SPU-KDL-Postcard of green roof hexagon pavilion)

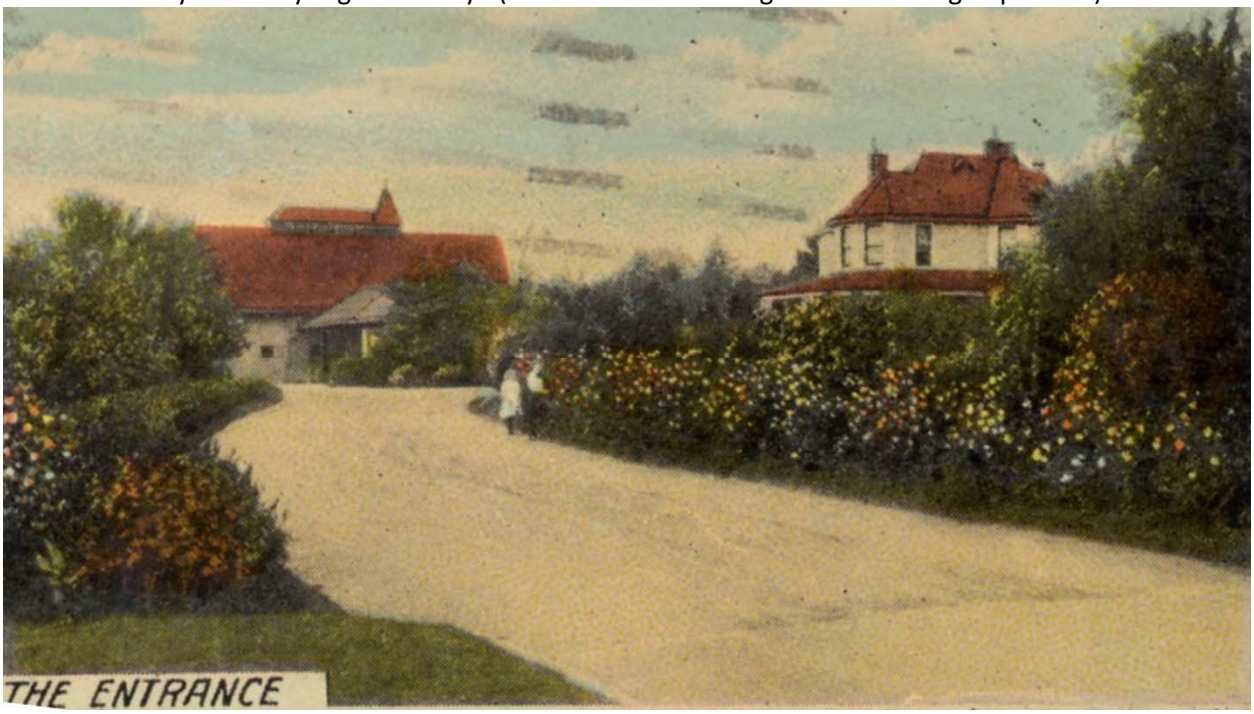


Figure 2.20 This detail of a historic postcard shows the original Administration area. Initially a two-story frame residence with tall barn sat behind plantings designed to screen it from the rest of the park. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Park Conservancy. (SPU-LOPC-Historic Admin pc-c1900)

Figure 2.21 Located in the Middle Concourse and constructed during a second building period after the 1937 flood, the Music Pavilion offers a public gathering place for live performances. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Park Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-Music Pavilion-c1930s)

Figure 2.22 This photograph illustrates a typical bench found at the Middle Concourse with wood slats and iron support posts. Other features, such as the bird statue and topiary, signs, and small planters were added at a later date and do not reflect the Olmstedian design intent. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Park Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-Middle Concourse bench Flower)

Figure 2.23 This detail of the open pavilion seen in Figure 2.16 shows the typical picnic tables found at Shawnee Park. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-Shelter Trees-c1900-bench detail)

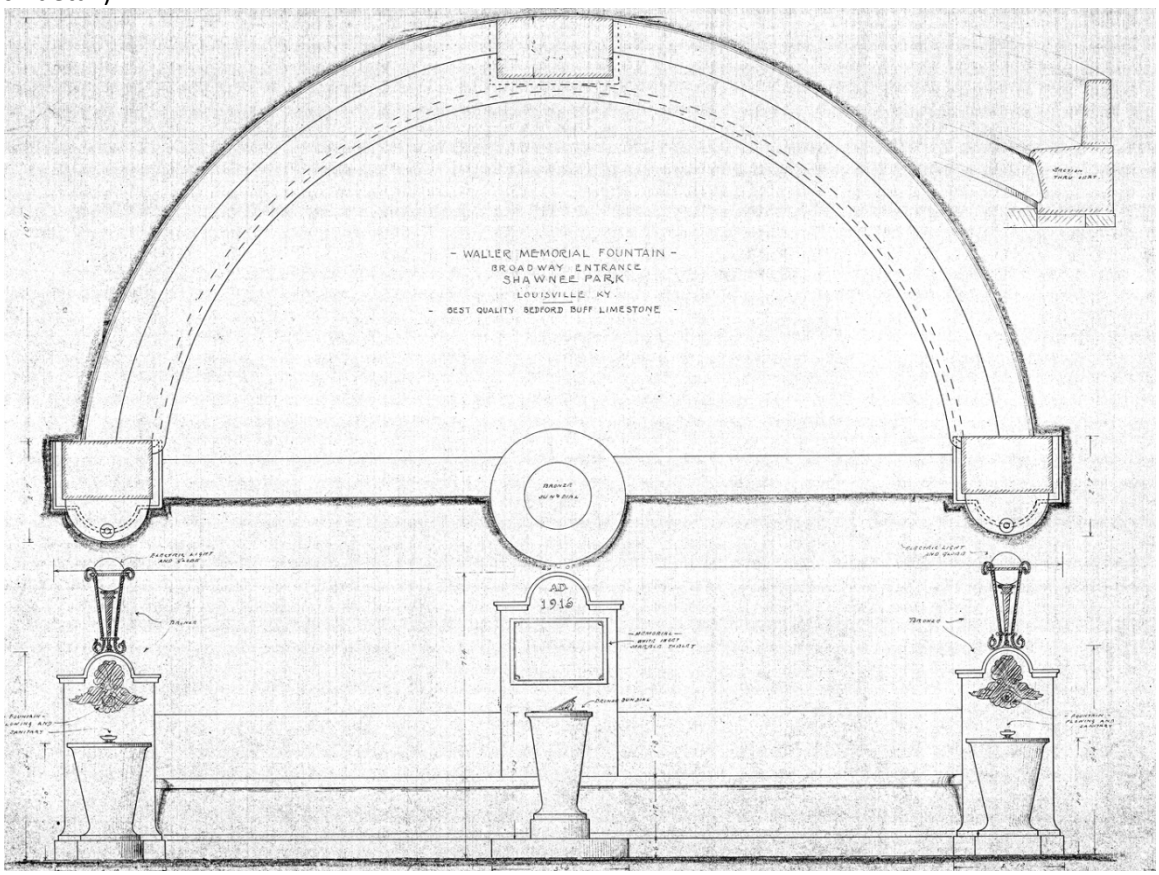


Figure 2.24 The 1916 plan shows the design of the Waller Memorial Fountain located at the West Broadway entrance. All elements, including the curved bench, fountains, sundial, and memorial plaque, are shown. Courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. (R-SPU-FLONHS-01269-6-MemFountain66-1916)

3. Shawnee Park Olmsted Design Intent, Character Today & Directions for Tomorrow

A. Introduction

The park General Plan embodied the Olmsted design style of defining space, views and vistas to shape the spaces. The visual experience of the park landscapes provided a sequence of differing views that highlighted the park areas and accented the views over the Ohio River from vantages on the uplands as well as the river slopes. In general, Shawnee Park open landscape showcased broad, nearly continuous views within the interior, a visual barrier along the inland edges and dramatic river vistas from three overlooks. Shawnee Park was a masterwork of design by the best and most experienced team of landscape architects working in the 1890s. The opportunity inherent in the river overlook landscape and the design intent for the park was effectively captured in this Olmsted Sr. quote.

> *Shawnee Park differs from the other two in having a considerable proportion of nearly level land almost free from trees, and in commanding view over the great river. At the same time, this park is of such limited area that it would take only a few minutes to drive all around its circuit drive, and the local views across its meadow, while agreeable enough in themselves, are not sufficiently extensive to become the controlling circumstance in the design of the park. In seeking to determine, therefore, what should be the principal controlling characteristic of the this park, it has seemed to us that it would consist in its use as a great public play-ground, leaving all the other advantages of the site to become of subordinate importance.*
>
> *The principal feature in our design for Shawnee Park, therefore, is the central play-ground, upon which we should expect, unlike most other large parks that military parades and large public gatherings could be permitted upon suitable occasions. Such a use of most parks would be entirely destructive of the most important elements of their value. In all cases where public parks are large enough to tempt people to go to them with the conscious or unconscious purpose of enjoying natural scenery, and of escaping from the city sights and sounds, it is absolutely essential to prohibit the gathering of large numbers of people in organized bodies, or as spectators of parades, exhibitions, public speaking and the like. In the case of Shawnee Park, it seems to us that it would not be inappropriate to develop its landscape in the direction of a great public common, associated on the one hand with a certain character, and on the other, with a picturesque natural treatment of the slopes between the meadow and the river. The leading motive in planting should be that of creating agreeable foregrounds to the views across the river, and of thickening up the inland borders of the park in order to obtain a certain degree of seclusion which will be available at times when the park is not being used for its principal purpose.*[1]

These words indicate a clear process of designing with the existing place, highlighting its most important features to support an array of park uses. The intent for parks was to effect a complete set of self-directed park uses. The vocabulary of uses employed by the Olmsted firm were:

- **Recreative/Passive** Enjoyment of the park as a green landscape of trees, turf, plantings and broad open spaces. Termed passive recreation today, describing a range of uses, sitting on the grass or a bench, reading, hanging out, relaxing, strolling to enjoy the open space and views, etc. The Olmsted term "recreative" addressed the value of the landscape as a restful place with a calming influence, to recreate ourselves in the beautiful and peaceful park landscape. Park user studies over the past 30 years have shown that passive/recreative uses are the majority of park uses, often including 60% to 75% of all park use.

- **Gregarious/Social** Social uses that brought families, neighbors and strangers together to share the park landscape for picnics, concerts, special events, play at playgrounds and splash pools, etc. Social uses are at the heart of the democratic nature of parks.

- **Exertive/Active** Exercise of all types was addressed in these uses. The majority of exertive/active recreation was self-directed healthful exercise that includes running, fast walking, bicycle riding, yoga, stretching, etc. These self-directed exercise uses comprised the majority of active park use. Team sports were another category of active uses that rely on purpose built facilities- baseball, soccer and football fields, basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts. In the Olmsted park landscape these team sports facilities were well integrated and whenever possible serve multiple purposes.

- **Educational/Learning** Parks also often served educational purposes. Founded in democracy parks offered civic lessons about shared, valued assets. In the 19th century botany and horticulture were topics of interest that offered learning opportunities. Today parks served as platforms for historical, environmental, fitness and other educational uses. A wide range of learning experiences and topics engaged this park to include early neighborhood history and land uses, park origins and design, democracy of space and social justice, environmental learning using park woodlands and meadows as well as Paddy's Run, Shawnee Basin, and the Ohio River, among others.

While some of these uses occur in Shawnee Park today, others are not as effectively supported. For example, the scenic landscape of the park is less beautiful and diverse than it once was, limiting the value of passive uses that make up the majority of general park use in other historic parks, but may not occur as often in this park today. A full range of uses are intended for Shawnee Park and is addressed in the park directions.

The updated master plan is developed in an integrated manner. Understanding park origins, evolution and existing character, uses and functions serve as a basis for proposing directions. Each of the following narratives is organized by Landscape Character Areas (LCA). Initially developed for the 1994 Olmsted Master Plan in relation to the Olmsted General Plan, these are applied again in this 2015 update. The Historic Zones analysis of the 1893 Shawnee Park General Plan prepared for the 1994 master plan serve as a useful informant for the Shawnee Uplands Master Plan.

The essential qualities of Shawnee Park can be more thoroughly grasped and employed in the planning and design process with the different LCAs identified and described. The uniquely arranged combinations of views, terrain, plants, paths, drives, shelters and other landscape features create a series of distinctive experiences within the park. The LCAs apply to both the as-built landscape c.1900 and the park as it exists in 2015 (Plans 3, 6, 9). Differentiating these areas of the park is helpful for planning improvements that target a desired effect in a particular LCA. The five LCAs identified for this Shawnee Park Uplands Master Plan, vary slightly from the 1994 version, to include:

- **LCA1 Great Lawn** This central feature of Shawnee Park is an elongated oval lawn framed by trees and separated by scattered trees into two chambers.
- **LCA2 Paddy's Run** East of the Great Lawn, this linear and canopied valley creates an entry threshold for the park
- **LCA3 Administration Area** Occupying a carefully designed and planted space in the southeast corner of the park, this area clusters essential facilities directly involved with maintenance and administration
- **LCA4 Park Perimeter** Originally planted with layers of trees, shrubs, and flowering trees, this area creates a pleasing public interface for the park
- **LCA5 Concourses & River Slopes** Until disruption by flood barriers, the straight rows of trees, display gardens, the Lilly Pond, and sinuous pathways providing a place to gaze over the river and transition between the upland terrace and the dense, natural vegetation of the riverbank

These LCAs are used to organize the sections for the master plan directions. The discussion of each LCA proceeds from history focusing on design intent, to existing park character and on to intended park character, closing with the list of proposed directions for each LCA.

B. LCA 1 Great Lawn

Great Lawn Original Olmsted Design

The Great Lawn as designed was "a great public common,"[2] an expansive 20-acre central green edged and dotted with trees intended to be serve everyone as open expanse. The intent was use as a place of scenic beauty and breadth for passive enjoyment. This space was readily adaptable for gatherings of varying sizes. (Figure 3.1). The large lawn with gently modulated topography and shade trees, and spatially divided into two areas was the essence of a calming, pastoral landscape, with a third area to the north characterized by existing trees in a woodland grove. It contrasted dramatically with the neighborhood of houses, yards and streets, in support of restorative passive park use and social use for gatherings. As Olmsted noted for Shawnee Park the Great Lawn was the magnet that addressed the need that ". . .parks must be large enough to tempt people to go to them with the conscious or unconscious purpose of enjoying natural scenery, and of escaping from city sights and sounds" by retaining passive uses for this large open space. Further Olmsted noted that occasional use for gatherings was appropriate, but should not be frequent or damaging.

The Great Lawn was the largest public space of this type in Louisville, making it different from the other Olmstedian parks. The open expanse, developed by adjusting pre-existing topography and trees and making designed additions, provided a breadth of park pastoral scenery with open lawns and grand trees. The Great Lawn was designed for the experience of the expanse, with an inward focus. Large canopy trees and the Shawnee Loop Road ringed the open lawn highlighting the visual experience within the space. This edge quality was an open woodland on three sides with a full, deeper canopy to the north end highlighting a pre-existing beech grove. The visual sense of expanse and depth was extended by the placement of trees in the near, mid and backgrounds. These living features provided perspective to the immense size of the lawn. The Great Lawn may have appeared level, but slight undulations added topographical interest to the open area. Specifically calculated raised edge topography also diminished the visual presence of the encircling circuit drive by allowing it to recede into the landscape. An irregular line of mature trees provided scale and subtly divided the space in an east-west crossing to define two irregular chambers and interrupt the sweeping views along the north-south axis. (See Figure 2.1) The deliberate design aspects created variation within the open area of the Great Lawn. The Great Lawn displays the genius of Shawnee Park as a public asset for the well-being of Louisvillians.

1994 Great Lawn Character, Recommendations and Outcomes

LCA 1 was dominated by decades of active recreation uses. By 1928, ten baseball fields and two sets of tennis courts arrayed throughout the open lawn. The development of the fields leveled the subtle topography of the original Olmsted design to support the field play use. By the 1990s, these fields were somewhat deteriorated and required renewal, opening a door toward relocation and upgrading to the north. Supporting the concept of relocating fields, citizen input in public forums in 1992 noted:

- "Softball is over-prioritized. No recreation facilities should be encroaching into quiet spaces."
- "Parks are green space for the renovation of the soul. We must reserve our open spaces without clutter, like the natural countryside."

The 1994 Olmsted Master Plan recognized the Great Lawn as the heart of this park and recommended the relocation of the ball fields, which focused on a single, exclusive use and recreational pursuit for team play, to the adjacent areas north. This relocation was required in order to recapture an open Great Lawn as an expansive space for diverse uses. The recommendations pointed out that moving the fields should be accompanied by repairing the collapsed drainage system, adding trees, improving paths, softening flood levee grades, upgrading utility service for event uses, and refining park landscape management efforts to align with the proposed landscape types of forest, woodland, savannah or meadow, and greensward. Further the drive encircling the lawn should be reorganized for shared use with a one-way traffic pattern, parking on the outside edge, and multiple uses walk/bike on the inside edge.

The building of a new field complex to the north freed the Great Lawn for baseball field removal and removals of overhead wires and lights. The circling road was reassigned as a one-way loop with parking and multiple use lanes. In recent years some tree replacement planting took place and recently a new playground and splash pad pool were added to the north.

2015 Great Lawn Character

The Great Lawn today is an open expanse, appearing quite level with three varied spaces: to the south a somewhat circular area is defined by tree lined margins; more central an oval space is edged with trees; while to the north tree groves remain in part while the historic shelter has been joined by a playground

and a splash pool. The 1994 recommendations for soil improvements, grading of flattened interior and flood levees, reconnection of a complete path system and additional plantings remain to be carried out. The existing expanse of lawn still depicts the effects of compacted soils from earlier field uses and the outlines of the fields remain visible in recent aerial views. The pedestrian system is fragmented with breaks where flood control berms covered historic paths and areas where the paths have been deteriorated and are obscured. Existing paths meander along the roadway generally reflecting the original design, with some recent paths, for example at the integrated playground and spray ground, function but fail to display the characteristic Olmsted grace. A small restroom building is also sited with these family oriented facilities.

Individual trees and small tree groups edge the area with additional trees to the north end in the Picnic Grove and around the service building. These trees display diverse sizes, indicating that pre-existing trees and 1890s plantings are joined by newer plantings. Maple and oak dominate the tree types within the area. Newer plantings follow this same paradigm with using more unique species to increase the diversity. Care has been taken to renew the plantings of trees along the park road. The notable exception are the trees that cross the large open space which are less dense that historically documented today. Close mown turf grass and weedy species cover the Great Lawn that in 1937 is documented as a mixed meadow of grasses. (See Figure 2.6) Overall, the Great Lawn presents a sense of openness and pastoral quality, although previous alterations have flattened the formerly subtle topography, and differentiation of spaces is partially compromised by the flood levee and newer uses.

2015 Master Plan Directions Great Lawn

This 2015 master plan update recommends that the Great Lawn improvements continue to address the Olmsted design intent and the diversity of contemporary uses. The proposed work within LCA1 would be guided by Olmsted era evidence to include the clarification of the original three spaces with soils, topography and plantings, redesign of the scenic spot on the north looking south, and construction of a complete path system.

Consolidation of the three internal spatial divisions to reflect Olmsted era with: 1. the smaller open lawn to the south receiving soil improvements, topography changes and additional perimeter trees; 2. the larger lawn space with soil decompaction, topography repair within the lawn area and added fill on flood levees where possible to soften grades and tree plantings informally to reinforce the northern margin of the space, as well as redesign of the viewing space with benches and plantings; and 3. increased planting in the woodland where possible, while retaining a sunny opening for the splash pool. With the fill materials available from the construction of the Shawnee Basin the topography recapture and the softening of the berms can readily accompany the basin project. Due to the flood control berm structures, the paths system requires reconstruction in both original and modified locations, in the Olmsted style. The ability to move around the entire Great Lawn on paths in good condition is central to the experience of this space. As a counterpart, healthy soils and repaired topography will support both scenic beauty and resilient turf. The planting of additional trees, to the north along both sides of the path, and as possible in the existing groves, will aid in differentiating the north open woodland area and the inserted splash pool and playground from the large open lawn space. The reorganization of parking can serve all users of the Great Lawn by defining safer movements and parking for up to 90 cars while providing handicap parking and drop off to the Pavilion. This approach also calls for removing the old drive and parking to integrate the Pavilion into the grove more effectively.

The Great Lawn recommendations in summary are to:

- Reinforce the three Great Lawn spaces
- Decompaction and improve soils to support robust turf
- Recapture the Olmsted era internal lawn topography
- Softening the flood levee western sides where possible without filling on existing healthy trees
- Plant perimeter and interior trees
- Reestablish the north seating and viewing area, without building a new shelter
- Plant more trees in north groves while keeping sunny opening for splash pool and playground
- Construct a completely connected path system in the Olmsted style

C. LCA 2 Paddy's Run

Paddy's Run Original Olmsted Design

Paddy's Run, shown on the pre-park survey, the "Map of Shawnee Park," was a natural feature of the proposed park land. The valley had a maximum grade change of 24 feet from the surrounding uplands. This landscape was a linear north-south oriented valley that, due to the amount of topography, was quite separate from the surrounding area once a person walked down into the creek valley and along the lowland of this corridor. The space, shaped by topography, drainage and pre-existing vegetation, was retained by the Olmsted firm as a park feature. These original landscape architects added a graceful path system for access, with pedestrian bridges over the creek and augmented plantings.

Historically documented on the pre-park survey, trees along Paddy's Run were dominated by elm (52%) and cedar (20%) (Figure 3.2). Other trees along the northern and eastern edges of the valley included a mix of ash, beech, red oak, white oak, and cedar. The Chestnut Street bridge, designed by the Olmsted Brothers, consisted of three-foot high, brick wing walls topped with terracotta and serves as a major circulation feature within the park (Figure 3.3 and 3.4). Shown on historic plans, narrow bands of turf extended on either side of the walk as well as a curb demarcating the drive with stone gutters. The setting was indicated on plans and sections with massings of boulders at the ends of the walls and proximity to an elm tree (Figure 3.5). A postcard of the same bridge from the 1920s documented vines climbing parts of the walls (Figure 3.6). Low shrubs extended from the ends of the walls and arched down to meet the grade. This layered approach to setting bridges in to the landscape enabled the structures to blend into the surrounding terrain and created a scenic ensemble for the system of walks and drives. By 1928, pedestrian paths paralleled the entry drive and circuit drive, and linked to the Administration area and north loop with two additional path segments. These segments reflected portions of the system shown on the General Plan, but only the partial organization is present. Shown on a 1928 aerial, scattered trees of varied sizes grew in the area. (See Figure 1.4)

1994 Paddy's Run Character, Recommendations and Outcomes

The 1994 character of Paddy Run was simple, lacking the plant and habitat diversity of original creek valley. Paddy's Run valley and creek had remained, as adapted for park use by the Olmsted firm, until the years after the flood of 1937. As a result of that extreme event this and other areas of the park were altered. In Paddy's Run, a deep excavation wiped out the creek as a large drainage pipe was placed below grade to capture storm water. The space where the creek ran under the Olmsted designed Chestnut Street Bridge was filled and the rustic bridges removed.

The elongated valley without a watercourse was observed in the 1990s, at approximately 20 feet below the Shawnee Loop Road. Relatively gentle, open side slopes led to a wide, slightly arched valley bottom. The entire space was mown turf with no trees along the former run and informally scattered trees on higher ground away from the disturbance. No noticeable water flowed along the low point of Paddy's Run at this time. Portions of paths were in place as were two Modernist concrete picnic shelters.

Recommendations set forth in the 1994 Olmsted Master Plan basically directed the recapture of the original character and biodiversity of this valley, reconstruction of paths, upgrading of picnic pavilions and screening of the large flat walled flood control pump building and adjoining fenced parking. No progress has been made in the past two decades toward implementing these recommendations.

2015 Paddy's Run Character

Today Paddy's Run remains essentially as it was in the 1990s. The current condition of pedestrian paths differs from the 1899 original design. Similar to Olmsted's design, a path parallels the entry drive before leading to the circuit drive and Great Lawn, while an unused pedestrian path segment extends from the Shawnee Loop Road toward the maintenance building, abruptly ending. The chain link fence around the maintenance yard extends downslope into the valley, and within this areas is a tangle of unmanaged vegetation. This segment reflects portions of the system shown on the General Plan, but only the partial organization is present. The Chestnut Street bridge crosses Paddy's Run, with the former channel filled. Oaks constitute the majority of the quality tree stock in the Paddy Run's area. Some of the larger trees could date at least to the earliest Olmsted era. The large trees that remain are in good condition, forming and open but large scale shady landscape.

Paddy's Run contains several park amenities including concrete picnic shelters, a restroom, basketball court, swings, the USACE pump station, a picnic area, and a smaller pump station on the south end near Broadway. There are a few concrete pads for picnic tables scattered in the area as well. The large pump station accessed from the Great Lawn drive and positioned slightly downhill display a high blank brick wall to the drive and has a chain link and barbed wire fence opposite surrounding a parking area and loading dock. These purely functional elements intrude on the park setting. In addition overhead electric lines and poles extend from Southwestern Parkway diagonally to the pump station adding another intrusion.

Overall, the valley has lost the creek and its associated landscape, shade trees have matured with notable canopy losses, the path system is incomplete, and the area contains a number of 20th century structures.

2015 Master Plan Directions Paddy's Run

For the Shawnee Basin project a new pipe will be laid in a linear excavation directly east of the late 1930s large pipe. There will be disturbance along the Paddy's Run corridor from the US ACE pump house building to the basin location for a length of over 1200 feet. The trees along this corridor are surveyed and the work will seek to avoid damage to mature trees. This pending project disturbance presents an opportunity to reconsider the landscape character.

The recommended direction for LCA 2, the Paddy's Run landscape, is to bring back a linear water-based landscape that returns trees and plantings that can withstand temporary inundation to the landscape. Two section that depict Paddy's Run with simple turf cover post-Basin construction or alternately with an intermittent stream that carries runoff at rainfall events are included as a preliminary concept

(Figures 3.7a and 3.7b). The current Paddy's Run character of mown turf with scattered trees indicates how different the intermittent creek on the surface would be (Figure 3.8). The functions of the landscape with intermittent wet conditions and plantings would be scenic and educational with plant and animal habitats developed. One intermittent storm water source would be the adjacent park drive catch basins that could be released into the valley. Adding deep sumps to these basins and oil absorbing pillows would improve the water quality flowing west and downhill into the valley. Buildings replacing the maintenance yard and the small Shawnee Basin utility control building could have roof runoff drained into the valley. Along the lower valley corridor a planting of suitable trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs would provide habitat. The Paddy's Run wetland corridor landscape could be developed from Broadway to the Chestnut Street bridge based on the historic survey and documentation of the Olmsted as-built character. The path system would be contracted to reflect the Olmsted design and to accommodate contemporary changes and needs. Well used for family and group picnicking, that function could be enhanced with shelter and picnic table pad repair and potentially additional picnic table areas. These features would ideally be accessed along the paths system. In addition that facades of the flood level pump stations and the park restroom should be redesigned and/or effectively screened for better park integration. In summary LCA 2 Paddy's Run directions are proposed to include:

- Heal the basin project excavation disturbance and stabilize slopes with meadow vegetation
- Modify soil to construct an intermittent wet valley
- Gain storm water flows into the valley by releasing park drive catch basins and building roofs, developing a dense and diverse planting along the wet corridor for habitat value.
- Build a path system from and to Paddy's Run
- Enhance picnic uses through connecting shelters to paths and providing more picnic tables on sensitively sited paved pads
- Develop an approach to screening or architectural changes that diminishes the visual presence of the large pump station and the adjacent fenced parking lot and loading docks.
- Modify the facades, roof or wall treatment of the park restroom to blend into the park landscape more effectively

D. LCA 3 Administration Area

Administration Area Original Olmsted Design

Located in the southeastern corner of Shawnee Park at the intersection of Southwestern Parkway and Broadway, a surround of trees and narrow massing of dense ground plane plantings visually separated the Administration area from the rest of the park and neighborhood. The vegetation in the Administration area of Shawnee Park related to the larger edge conditions of the park, clearly shown on the 1899 "Complete Planting Plan" with a higher density of trees and shrubs along the perimeter. (See Figure 1.3)

An early 1892 survey documented the preexisting site vegetation of what would become the Administration area of Shawnee Park. At this time, an open field laid between Paddy's Run and the residences and farms to the east. This open character required a comprehensive planting plan to integrate the Administration area into the park. The Olmsted planting plan conformed to his overall principles. In general, the plantings carefully orchestrated views by buffering the utilitarian area from the surrounding neighborhood and park but also by permitting selected views from the Superintendents House. Irregular beds of shrubs marked intersections and line walks and drives. Paired beds were only

roughly symmetrical. (See Figure 1.2) The 1896 "Planting Plan about Administration Building" included 52 trees favoring tulip trees, American lindens, and pin oaks. A pair of American lindens marked the beginning of the entry drive. Another pair flanked the extreme ends of the Greenhouse. Tall tuliptrees were used as buffer plantings around a water tower and also scattered throughout the grounds. Beneath these canopy trees, ornamental trees like flowering dogwood and eastern redbud provided visual interest in the understory. The tree line facing Paddy's Run and the Great Lawn exhibited a different design approach. Densely branched pin oak with persistent leaves created a distinct edge. Between these trees, others with contrasting bark or form created interest including white birch, eastern redbud, and hickory.

The entry drive from Broadway into the historic Administration area formed a distinctly secondary vehicular access route that reflected careful consideration of its impact on the overall park landscape. The gently arced drive indirectly connected with this utilitarian zone rather than meeting in a rectilinear intersection. As designed, placement of shrub beds and trees visually buffered the area from the main public spaces and walks while still affording open views to the entry drive from the Superintendents House (Figure 3.9). Additional paths ran parallel to the facility and intersected at acute angles where necessary to lead toward other park locations. The house, stable, greenhouse and nursery yard formed a complex of buildings that were integrated within the park with paths and plantings. The character of the Administration Entry was notable due to these characteristics of the design:

- Angled secondary vehicular access route contains views
- Drive arc gentle for indirect connection
- Walk access also recessive
- Surrounding paths intersect at acute angles
- Trees and shrubs screen area
- Open views to the entry drive from the Superintendent's House

As designed, placement of shrub beds and trees visually buffered the area from the main public spaces and walks while still affording open views to the entry drive from the Superintendent's House. Additional paths ran parallel to the facility and intersected at acute angles where necessary to lead toward other park locations.

An early 20th century postcard view depicts that area as heavily planted while both stable and house, as two-story structures display high, articulated roofs to the sky above the plantings. The Park Superintendent was probably the author of much of the landscape depicted in this view, although the basic organization of the site is portrayed on the historic Olmsted plans.

1994 Administration Area/Maintenance Yard Character, Recommendations and Outcomes

The 1937 flood and subsequent flood control works removed the original house, stables and greenhouse. A new single story brick maintenance complex was constructed by the Works Progress Administration in 1938, and was in place in the 1990s. Limited attention was given to this area in the 1994 Olmsted Master Plan. Recommendations simply listed the directive to renovate the facility driveway, parking and fencing and to provide landscape screening to reduce the visual presence of the facility. No project resulted from these recommendations.

2015 Administration Area/Maintenance Yard Character

Today a 5,700 square foot group of buildings is used by Metro Parks as a center for the city-wide playground crew ands for storage of supplies. The 1938 building group is positioned on high ground at the elevation of the parkway and adjacent perimeter trees. The maintenance building is made of yellow brick with a dark brown/gray mortar. The bricks and mortar seem to be match the brick used in the two pump stations of the same vintage. Most of the windows of the maintenance building are opaque from the outside. The roof continues over archways to create a narrow covered outdoor space. The building group is surrounded by asphalt paving providing paved access to the loading docks and various doorways. Extensive piles of wood ships, tree limbs, and other debris cover much of the approximately 180 foot by 350 foot fenced area. This irregularly shaped enclosure is surrounded by a tall, galvanized chain link fence with barbed wire on top. Overhead electric lines, lighting poles, and an emergency siren are located throughout the site. Also placed within the area are playground equipment staged for future installation or damaged, outdoor fuel storage, and maintenance equipment. Access to the maintenance yard is via a narrow, paved road that comes off Broadway to the chain link double gate.

Some deciduous shrubs surround the exterior of the chain link fence as screening but it is not continuous or evergreen. Plantings surrounding the property are largely made up of tall, mature deciduous trees like oak and maple, but also include a few pine, spruce, and holly trees. Inside the fence, there are some invasive shrubs and potentially invasive trees, but in the warmer months it obscures the maintenance area. Former pedestrian pathways have disappeared around the maintenance facility.

2015 Master Plan Directions Administration Area/Maintenance Yard

Based on a detailed site analysis that consider during and post construction impacts and land uses, this area is proposed for the position of the Shawnee Basin, a large underground storm water tank. The footprint of this basin, approximately 175 by 400 feet, is slightly larger than the current facility. The construction of the underground basin would begin with the demolition of the existing building complex and fenced yard. This mandated consent decree project is one of several taking place all over Louisville to address the capture of sewage laden storm water in peak events.

The excavation for this 35 foot deep basin will be large and considerable subsoil material will be generated. Some of that material can be used to reestablish Olmsted style grading on the Great Lawn and to soften the flood levees grading making these flood control elements less steep and more effectively blended into the park landscape, as described under the Great Lawn heading above.

The basin undertaking presents an opportunity for the reconsideration of the Administration Area/ Maintenance Yard and its future uses. The surface expression of the basin to the west side would be a controls and utilities building, approximately 1500 square feet. To the east, a series of surface hatches would provide maintenance access for a 400 foot long line of tipping buckets used to clean out the basin after storm events. A stabilized access route for trucks to approach these hatches is required as well, although it may not be a fully paved road.

For approximately 150 feet between these hatches and the utility building, the basin will be covered with topsoil, which may be flat or shaped topography. The area above the basin could be planted with grasses, forbs, shrubs and possibly small trees, but not large deciduous or evergreen trees. These plantings would be developed for scenic and habitat values. There may also be stabilized gravel paths in the area above the basin.

Another opportunity offered in the basin project is to construct buildings comparable to the removed maintenance complex. The removed building, as noted above account for about 5,700 square feet. The replacement structures could serve a new purpose as the proposed Ecological Education Outreach Center for the West Side, if the Playground Unit of Metro Parks can be relocated to a new base of operations.

Two preliminary sketches show possible options for treatment of the landscape atop and around the Basin (Figures 3.10a and 3.10b). A relatively level lawn, pitching toward Paddy's Run is shown in one section while graceful earth mounding for a meadow and plantings is shown in the other.

The preliminary directions for the Administration Area/Maintenance Yard are:

- Align the basin to minimize loss of mature trees
- Relocate the Metro Parks Playground Crew to another base of operations
- Use excavated soil for Great Lawn and flood levee reshaping
- Cover the basin with topsoil at a minimum of 3 feet deep varying the topography applying Olmsted grading techniques
- Plant a pollinator meadow with flowering forbs, grasses, shrubs and selected small trees on mounded areas
- Extend pollinator meadow east into Paddy's Run
- Integrate pedestrian paths to provide access
- Use the historic access drive modifying it for a drop of loop with handicap and bus parking
- Construct the Basin controls and utilities building in the southwest corner
- Construct the Ecological Outreach center to the south to include educational spaces, offices, canoe storage, small garden/nursery, outdoor gathering space, and other program elements
- Plant additional canopy trees beyond the basin footprint to reinforce tree canopy

E. LCA 4 Park Perimeter

Original Design

The Park Perimeter functioned as a green buffer between the neighborhoods to the south and east and the various activities on the Shawnee Park uplands. As with other areas of the park, Olmsted, Sr. intended that LCA 4 reflect its own character in addition to supporting the "principal purpose" of the park, which was to for its use as a "great public common" and "great public play-ground"[3] When used for large gatherings, the perimeter was not expected to completely screen activities within; however, he directed the "thickening up of the inland borders" to afford a degree of privacy for the majority of the time the park was in use.

The 1928 aerial captured the appearance of the park edges a few decades after planting and verified the planting concepts shown on the 1893 Shawnee Park General Plan and the 1899 Complete Planting Plan. (See Plan 1 and Figures 1.3 and 1.4) Dark hatching on the General Plan indicated dense plantings on the borders. The south and east perimeter contained defined areas of undulating tree masses possibly with understory trees or shrubs beneath. Entries to the park from the Southwestern Parkway and from West Broadway were more deliberately planned with clear orientation from walks and drives and greater visibility between trees, across orchestrated garden beds, and into open expanses of turf, as seen in a

postcard image of the West Broadway entrance (Figure 3.11). Trolleys were intended to bring visitors into the park from West Broadway. The north boundary of the park included numerous retained trees as well as intentional plantings; however, the open fields that later became parkland did not necessitate high levels of enclosure.

The 19th century design plans indicated linear bands of layered tree plantings. Shrubs were reserved for entries, intersections, and other areas of greater visibility. Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot incorporated and augmented existing vegetation. Near the Administration Area LCA 3, existing American beech, red oak, and white oak mixed with the recommended tulip poplars, American linden, and additional oaks (Figure 3.12). Neighbors were to look through the trunks of these canopy trees into a secondary corridor with an understory of smaller flowering trees including eastern redbud, flowering dogwood, and common hoptree. Inside the park, tall tulip poplars were also specified to buffer tall elements like a water tower inside the Administration Area.

1994 Park Perimeter Character, Recommendations and Outcomes

The 1994 Olmsted Master Plan encountered a perimeter full of canopy trees but devoid of understory plantings. Over time, visually permeable park borders were desired and flowering trees and shrub masses were not replaced. The sense of separation between the city and the park was not reinforced by the vegetation of the boundary. In addition, the south edge of the park contained fewer trees than the intended rows of street trees depicted on the General Plan. The southern boundary was further marred by the presence of a large drainage structure.

2015 Park Perimeter Character

The perimeter of Shawnee Park currently provides a visually permeable green edge. An informal arrangement of large canopy trees along Southwestern Parkway complements the more formal rhythm of canopy trees along the border with West Broadway. The tree species include mature oak, maple, and tulip poplar that are suited to the amount of space that Shawnee Park affords. The vertical canopy creates an expansive experience similar to the vastness that the Great Lawn forms horizontally. Turf dominates below the canopy except near the Administration Area where some forsythia and viburnum shrub masses screen the maintenance facilities.

The current curved entry from Broadway into the park is the most formal park entry. It opens onto the vastness of the Great Lawn and then leads the visitor onto the ring road with views across the Great Lawn. The entry from River Park Drive, formerly Chestnut Street, contains a small brick bridge that is deteriorating with volunteer invasive species appearing at the bridge corners.

2015 Master Plan Park Perimeter Directions

Restoration of historic character to promote interest in the distinct spaces of the Concourses & River Slopes LCA5 is a goal of this master plan update. The recommended work within LCA 5 would incorporate the current constraints posed by the floodwall and pump stations, newer bandstand, and contemporary budgets, as well as shifting patterns of park use. Reinterpreting the most formal park landscape designed by Olmsted, Sr. in Louisville offers opportunities to highlight the unique features of the Concourses.

The 2015 master plan update advocates for the renewal of the Park Perimeter LCA 4 to beautify the boundary as originally intended but also to retain visual permeability that has been enjoyed by the immediate neighbors for generations. Due to the advanced age and in some cases the declining

condition of canopy trees throughout the perimeter young trees should be planted in open spots where they can receive sunlight and nutrients. Young trees to form the future canopy should be selected using the historic documentation of trees types on Olmsted Planting plans.

As the perimeter was intended to be more visually dense along the east edge, small flowering trees that function as native understory with lower light requirements may be planted in clusters to achieve intended character. Thinly branched species such as eastern redbud, flowering dogwood and shadblow would add density and seasonal add color while affording views into the park. Replanting of Olmsted-style shrub beds at park entries is also proposed to formalize and emphasize these entry points as transitions into the park, leaving the city behind. These shrub groupings can be modified from the Olmsted list to favor native shrubs and well-behaved exotic shrubs to replicate the historic texture, and massing, using plant with relatively low heights, below 4 feet. In this manner the character is achieved while contemporary best practices in sustainability are applied.

The Park Perimeter recommendations in summary are to:

- Plant young deciduous trees to ensure the future canopy
- Plant thin-branched flowering trees masses for visual interest and a visually permeable buffer
- Install shrub planting beds at park entries to formalize and emphasize entries as the transition into the park landscape

F. LCA 5 Concourses & River Slopes

Concourses & River Slopes Original Olmsted Design

Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot designed the Middle, North and South Concourses as a series of interrelated but distinct garden spaces from which to view the Ohio River valley and the bluffs of Indiana. These gathering places encouraged people to promenade, enjoy the views, and experience the formal rows of shade trees, sunken flower gardens, the pavilion, benches, and pond. Vehicular and pedestrian circulation was equitably accommodated in LCA 5. (See Plan 4) Displayed with labels on the 1893 General Plan, the Concourses consisted of south, middle and north components, each with a unique arrangement of features. Paths traversed the multiple, wooded terraces of the riverbank descending from the uplands.

The South Concourse consisted of the Lily Pond, a driving loop, and a gracious cul-de-sac with winding connections to a boat dock and river walks below. Olmsted's adaptation of a pre-existing pond into the Lily Pond bestowed a naturalistic water feature to the park. Visitors could circumnavigate the space on paths or directly access the curvaceous shore in three locations. Garden beds with profuse shrubs and a small island cultivated an ornamental feel. The Middle Concourse was the only formal garden space designed by Olmsted for Louisville parks. At the apex of the Great Lawn and the high point on the upper riverbank, the Middle Concourse offered fresh breeze and ample views. The symmetrically arranged space included an allée of oriental plane trees along the wide drive and a Music Court with a bandstand flanked by rectangular flower beds (Figure 3.13). Four sets of steps descended to the annual display and topiary of the sunken beds. Parking and a parallel walk faced the Great Lawn. Early images revealed the popularity of the location by placement of furnishings like wood slat benches and signs to keep off the grass. The North Concourse, included a generous driving loop and cul-de-sac similar to its southern

counterpart. River vistas were filtered through the trunks of canopy trees from this location. (See Figure 2.3)

The naturally vegetated and selectively cleared slopes of the Ohio River provided pleasant terrain with sinuous paths for direct water access. The water level was lower at the time of design than in the early 20th century when locks were constructed down river. A middle bank with preexisting willow, poplar, sycamore, and other trees offered a level ground plane for Olmsted, Sr.to organize a linear pathway along the river. The slopes also created the necessary topographical relief necessary to elevate the Concourses, Great Lawn, and other upland sections of Shawnee Park. Each concourse has a direct pedestrian access point although many improvised paths were made. Downhill from the North Concourse, a pontoon pier facilitated embarking and disembarking of the "wharf boat" at the park. As revealed by the *1900 Shawnee Park Plan,* Plan 2, the constructed paths evoke the spirit of the 1893 General Plan but do not replicate it precisely.

1994 Concourses & River Slopes Character, Recommendations and Outcomes

In 1994, LCA 5 revealed traces of its former glory. The integrity of many original features of this complex area were compromised over time. To the east, an abundance of trees and thickets of invasive vegetation obscured views over the Ohio River, the chief purpose of LCA 5. Various clearing efforts have opened slot views but without persistent management, the slopes have reverted to dense herbaceous and woody plant growth. While a power plant with two tall stacks is within the river view today, this view is still a desirable one with the Ohio River as its primary element. To the west, a steeply sloped floodwall snaked between the Concourses and the Great Lawn. The Great Flood of 1937 resulted in several changes to the river banks of the Ohio. Efforts by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s to construct drives along the river, regrade, and plant the slopes were destroyed. Then, in 1947, the USACE constructed the levee which veers north to south and from one side of the drive to the other (Figure 3.14). Accompanied by several, visually intrusive pump stations, the flood protection measures were found to confuse park users and impede their movements.[4] Traces of former paths and drives were evident amidst the changes in topography and vegetation.

Each Concourse revealed varying degrees of transition away from the character of the historic park. The Lily Pond of the South Concourse was a legible element of the original design; however, the undulating edge and diverse plantings were replaced in the mid-20th century with a reinforced edge with angular concrete and turf ground plane. In the Middle Concourse, the bandstand of the Music Court was demolished in 1925 and replaced four years later with a bandstand in a grassy clearing between the South and Middle Concourses. The Greek Exedra style building had an observation area on the roof. (See Figure 2.21) In 1994, this area provided a setting for weddings and other small scale events.

The formerly complex Middle Concourse was stripped of its ornamentation by destructive events and budgetary shortfalls throughout the 20th century. The Great Depression ended the expense of maintaining extensive flower gardens in the early 1930s. The 1937 flood destroyed other features like the tree allées. In 1939, Parks Commission landscape architect Carl Berg reconstructed the garden to its original outline but with a refined palette including 96 types of perennials, annuals and bulbs. After being abandoned during the Second World War, city forester William Heffernan restored the formal garden in 1955 with 111 types of plants only to have it be repeatedly destroyed by vandals. In 1994, four original steps descended to the sunken lawn panels.

The overlook drives of the South and North Concourses remained largely intact, though with changed topography, diminished views, and evidence of littering at the cul-de-sacs. Particularly in the north, flood mitigation resulted in the regrading of the overlooks and leveled the once mounded edges of the drive loop of the North Concourse. A park road also pierced the loop drive to access the recreation fields of the circa 1915 northern park extension.

The work on the Concourses and River Slopes that resulted from the 1994 Master Plan included viewshed and invasive species management and repurposing the South Concourse for pedestrian use.[5] In response to abuse of the space, particularly illegal dumping, the southernmost loop of the overlook was downsized in pavement width for pedestrian use and benches were placed for enjoyment of the river views. Several rounds of invasive species suppression and viewshed management for Ohio River views were undertaken by the Metro Parks Natural Areas team and the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. For a biking loop signage and security project, the focus was on white mulberry removal and the project was very successful. The Conservancy staff and volunteers have cleared the slope of target invasive plants near the riverwalk including shrub honeysuckle and Japanese knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum). There remains a fair amount of honeysuckle and some invasive ground covers that need eradication.

2015 Concourses & River Character

The Concourses & River Slopes LCA 5 retains the historic function of providing views over the Ohio River in 2015; however, this is a muted celebration of the point of vertical separation between the Great Lawn of the upland and the river below. The physical landscape is marginally improved from 1994 conditions but expectedly diminished from the original pattern. In general, landscape features are reduced in complexity and detail and views to the Ohio River from the overlooks are infrequent and congested with overgrown masses of vegetation.

Today the South Concourse has two distinct components, the south one for pedestrian use with stone curbing and benches, while the north remains purposed for vehicular circulation. These are separated logically at the junction between the loop drive and the cul-de-sac. This relatively recent change also reduces impervious surfaces and prevents vehicle access to secluded areas that facilitate negative behaviors. A steep and winding concrete path has been added to the end of South Concourse to access the path along the river slopes. Known as the Riverwalk, this segment of the Louisville Loop connects the park to an extensive pedestrian and biking route.

The Lily Pond of the South Concourse offers benches and a small gazebo near the open water. The character is similar to 1994 conditions with an angular concrete margin rather than the historic vegetated edge. The exuberant growth of aquatic plants within the pond contrasts with the simplicity of the surrounding turf-dominated ground plane (Figure 3.15).

The Middle Concourse currently consists of remnant walking paths and overgrown border vegetation where there were once views to the river. Plantings on the Middle Concourse are predominantly informal groupings of canopy trees rather than a formal allée. Four steps descend to the sunken gardens to which neighborhood groups have been added small beds since the 1990s. Maintenance of the garden beds varied with the fluctuating levels of volunteer effort and vandalism. The North Concourse is divided by temporary bollards into vehicular and pedestrian zones. Vehicle access to the cul-de-sac has been eliminated due to perpetual flooding, although the pedestrian oriented features found at the South Concourse are not present here. The Riverwalk is also accessed from this area.

2015 Master Plan Concourses & River Slopes Directions

Restoration of historic character to promote interest in the distinct spaces of the Concourses & River Slopes LCA5 is a goal of this master plan update. The recommended work within LCA 5 would incorporate the current constraints posed by the floodwall and pump stations, newer bandstand, and contemporary budgets, as well as shifting patterns of park use. Reinterpreting the most formal park landscape designed by Olmsted, Sr. in Louisville offers opportunities to highlight the unique features of the Concourses.

The overall historic objective of the Concourse was to enjoy views of the Ohio River. Managing these views is the central task and requires suppression of invasive species, planting and stewardship of desirable species, selective clearing for views, managing tree forms and canopy density for wind resilience and potentially managing slope stabilizing grasses and forbs with annual or biennial controlled burning.

Following on the effective reuse of the South Concourse that divides the space for pedestrian and vehicular uses, apply the same approach to the North Concourse. This modification will encourage concourse use, improve access, and provide seating to enjoy the view while clarifying the vehicular loop drive and layby parking.

The Middle Concourse was the sole formal symmetrical features of the park landscape situation at the center of the river overlook concourses. The formality can be reinstated by replacing the formal rows of trees along the drive and in the semi-circular center, some 28 trees in total. The flanking rectangular gardens are proposed to be replanted in low maintenance native pollinator flowering forbs, with spring ephemerals and low grasses or groundcovers to create a dense planting resistant to weed infestation. Water supply may be needed nearby for these areas and the young trees. In fact functioning water spigots at 200 foot interval would be useful throughout the park.

Two important park features of this area occur to the south, the Music Pavilion and the Lilly Pond. To enhance the Music Pavilion area a path connection is proposed from the Middle Concourse south. In addition, if possible some fill soil can be added to the flood levee on the east side making the slop more gentle and encouraging use for music performance seating. For the Lily Pond, the original Olmsted plans depict a more naturalistic pool with a soft edge and water edge as well as upland plantings. People were invited to the edge at three areas. The current hard edged pond has quite a different character. There is an important issue of understating the water sources for this pond as it is perched on high ground. If source water can be insured, redesign in a naturalistic form reflecting the Olmsted approach is preferred.

The Concourses & River Slopes proposed directions in summary are to:

- Open and manage views over the Ohio River by managing slope vegetation with selective clearing, invasive plant suppression, controlled burns, and appropriate replanting
- Construct a full path system that links the Concourses as well as joins the Great Lawn and river slopes
- Construct a separate pedestrian zone to the south side of the North Concourse with barriers for vehicular circulation to the north side
- Restore the character of the Lily Pond at the South Concourse with a historic shoreline and island and native plantings in the Olmsted style

- Ease grades of the levee near the bandstand to improve the earthen amphitheater
- Replant the formal tree allée of the Middle Concourse with native sycamore or the original oriental plane tree, as appropriate to the soils and moisture on the site
- Interpret the beds of the Middle Concourse gardens to both sides with structured and maintainable pollinator garden of mingled flowering forbs and native ephemeral spring bloomers with low grasses to fill in the plant matrix and suppress unwanted weeds

In addition to these specific issues, by landscape character area (LCA) there are infrastructure consideration throughout the park to address including water supply, power supply and subgrade drainage.

Water Supply- As noted above, readily accessible water supply would aid in the care of young trees, shrubs, and garden areas. Functioning water spigots at 200 foot interval would be useful throughout the park. It is unknown if any part of such a system are in place today, as none were observed in field study. The expense of providing such a system may not allow it and water trucks can also be used as required.

Power Supply- Overhead power poles and lines detract from park scenery and conflict with tree canopies. Incrementally, when areas are disturbed, power lines should be placed below grade.

Subsurface Drainage- Historic subsurface drain lines on the Great Lawn and elsewhere, are likely dysfunctional, having collapsed due to age or surface pressure from vehicle weights. In addition catch basins are often filled with debris due to limited staff for clean out operations. Where possible effective surface drainage and infiltration is preferred for managing storm water. As noted above, some catch basins along the Great Lawn perimeter may be adapted to provide water flows into Paddy's Run. In general park-wide subsurface drainage systems should be repaired, cleaned and replaced as required to insure effective storm water management.

Review and comment on these preliminary directions will lead to refined proposed directions and recommendations as the Shawnee Parks Uplands Master Plan receives broad public and stakeholder input.

Chapter 3 Endnotes

[1] F. L. Olmsted & Co. to John B. Castleman, November 17, 1892, *Louisville Olmsted Parks and Parkways Master Plan,* Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy Inc., June 1994, p 34.
[2] Excerpt from F. L. Olmsted & Co. to John B. Castleman, November 17, 1892, Louisville Olmsted Parks and Parkways Master Plan, Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy Inc., June 1994, p 34.
[3] F. L. Olmsted & Co. to John B. Castleman, November 17, 1892, *Louisville Olmsted Parks and Parkways Master Plan,* Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy Inc., June 1994, p 34.
[4] 1994 Olmsted Master Plan, p.35.
[5] The Southern Concourse project was a Metro Parks initiative designed by Environs Inc. and Heritage Landscapes.

Figure 3.1 The c1930s photograph of the Great Lawn shows the sheer size of the green space and its ability to support events and gatherings. Here, community members watch a large group dance. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (SPU-LOPC-Great Lawn Mayday c1930s

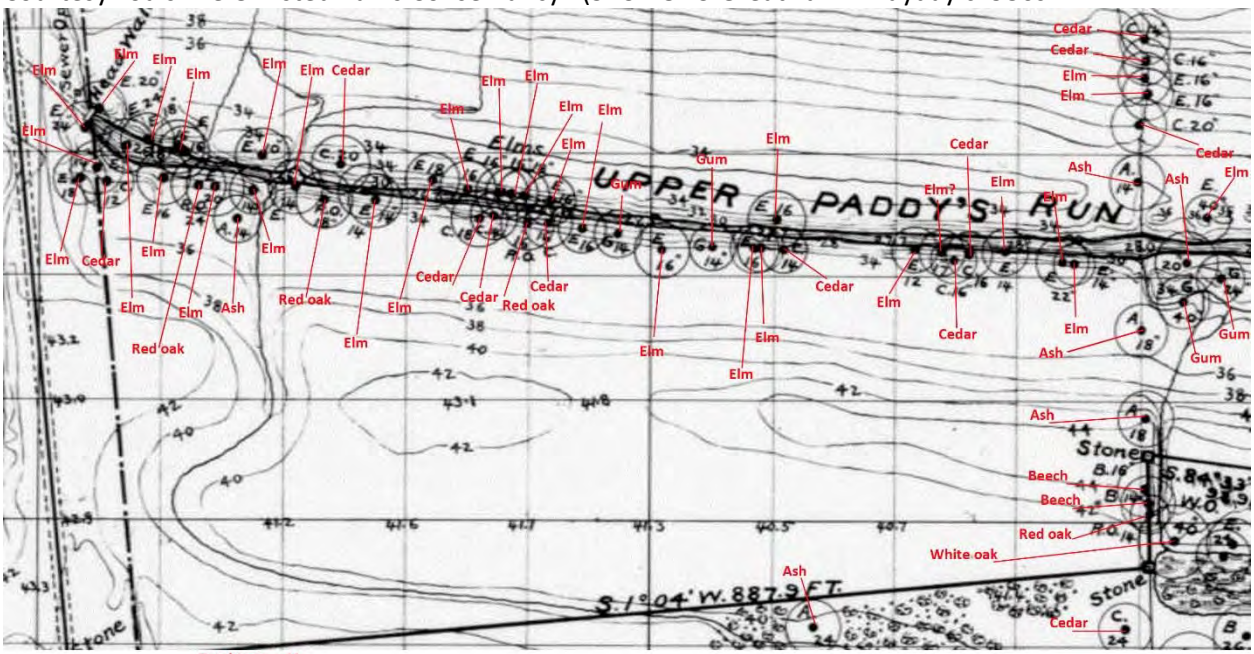


Figure 3.2 This detail of the 1892 pre-park survey of Paddy's Run shows preexisting trees growing in the area. Heritage Landscape labeled each tree with the type and included a count below the plan. Courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, edited by Heritage Landscapes. (SPU-FLONHS-01269-0-ExCondMapLower-Sep1892 detail PR tree label)

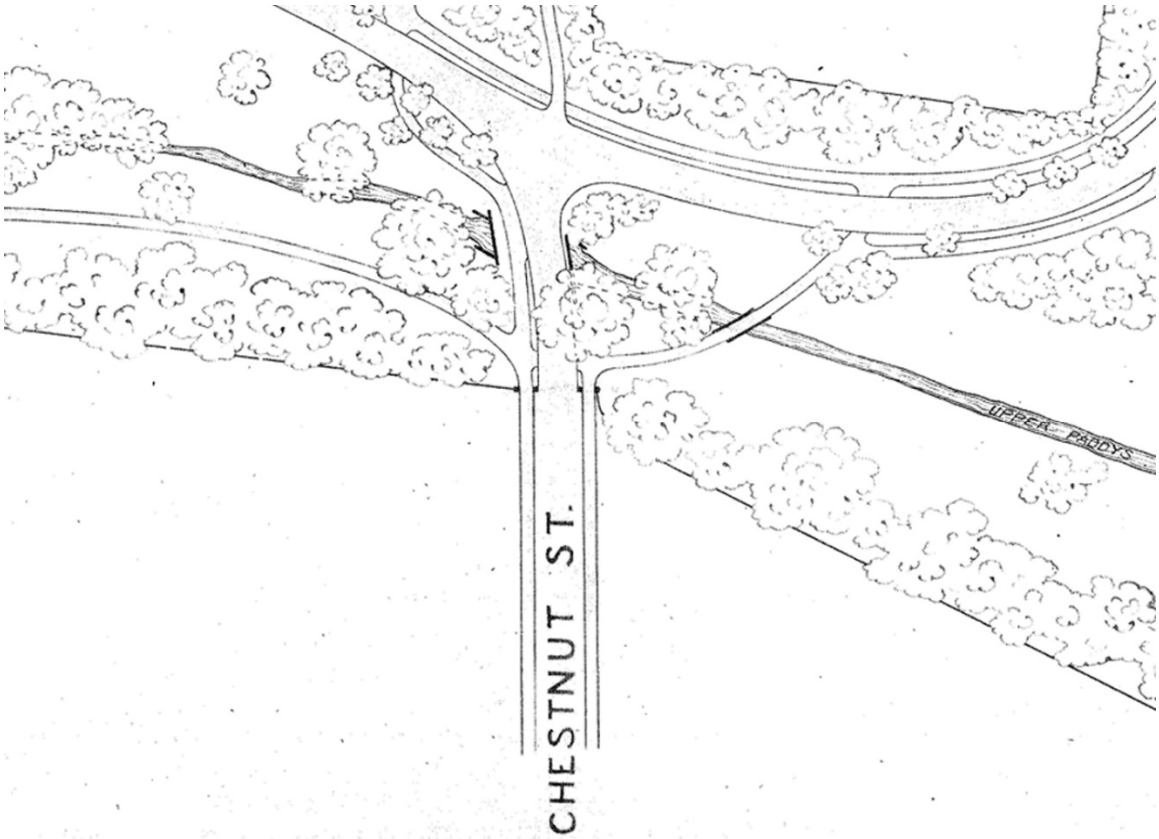


Figure 3.3 This detail of "Preliminary Plan for Shawnee Park" dated November 12, 1892, shows the Chestnut Street entrance and bridge crossing Paddy's Run. Courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. (R-SPU-FLONHS-01269-0-PrelimPlan6-12Nov1892 detail of bridge)

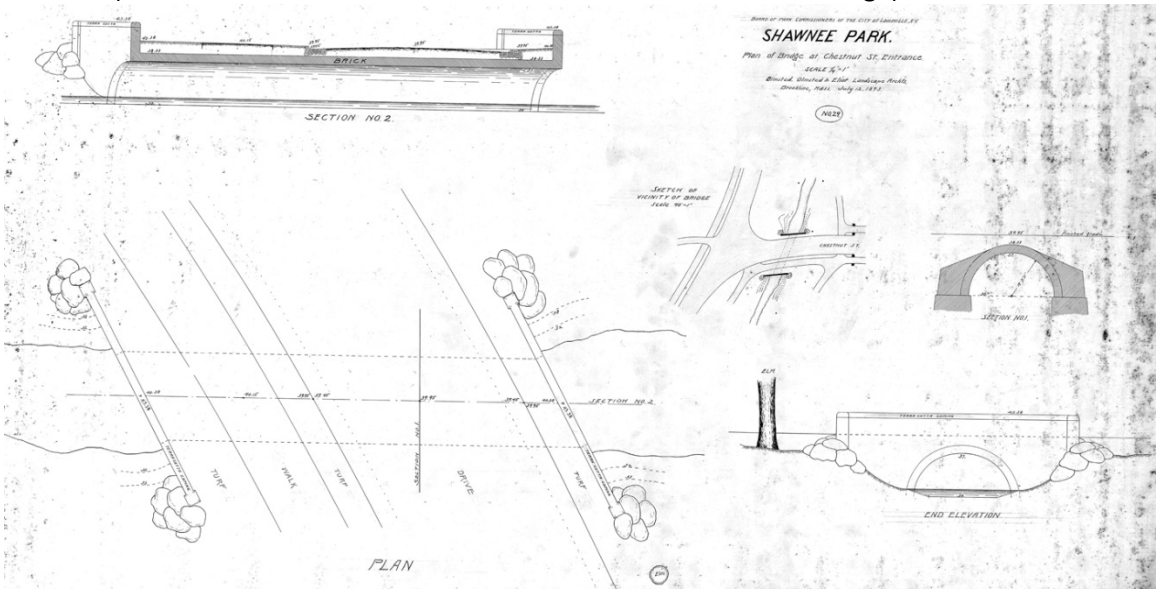


Figure 3.4 This plan shows the design and siting of the Chestnut Street entrance bridge. The plan specifies the use of brick as a material and placement of the drive, adjacent walk, and narrow bands of turf. Courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. (R-SPU-FLONHS-01269-6-ChestnutBridge29-12Jul1893).

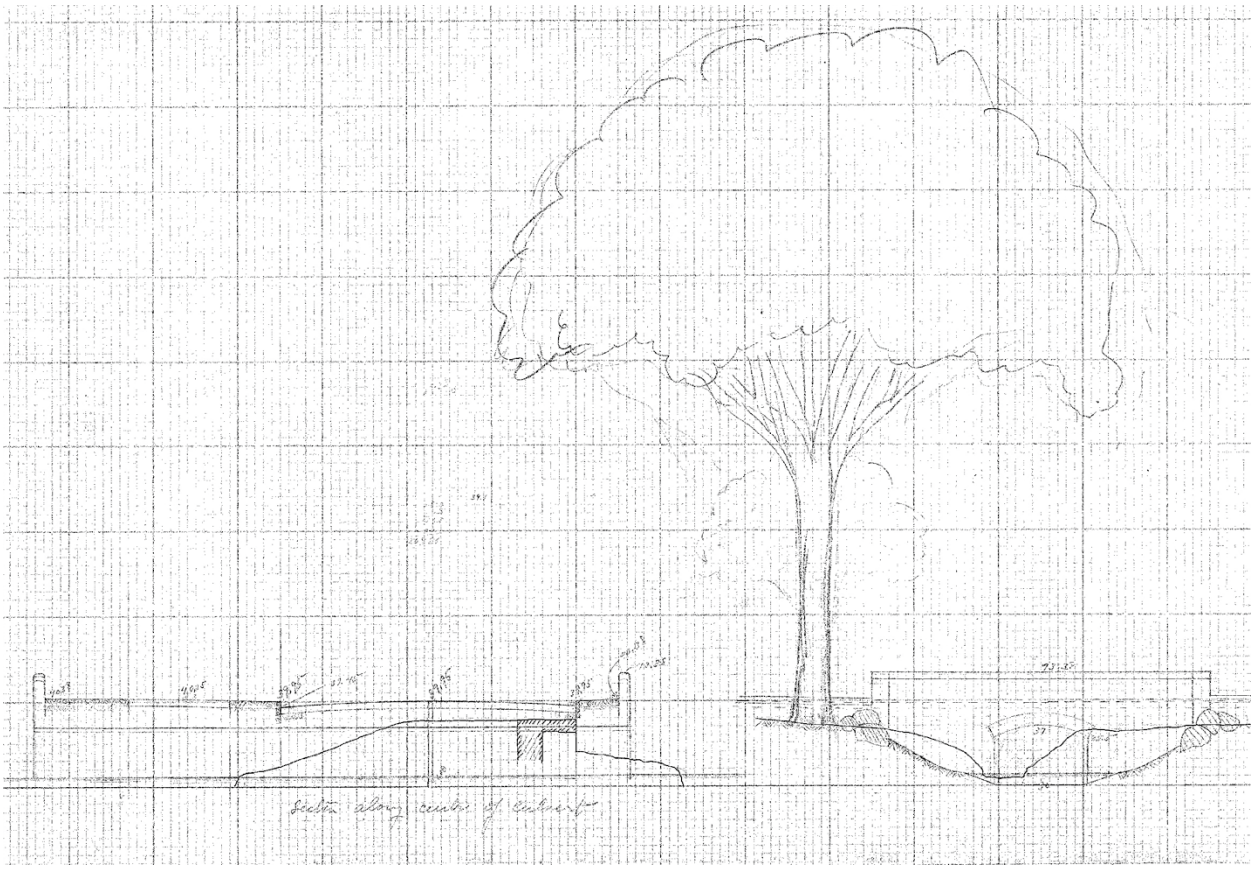


Figure 3.5 This section of the Chestnut Street bridge shows the siting of boulders and an elm tree directly adjacent to the tree. Courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. (SPU-FLONHS-01269-6-SectionCulvertZ11-NoDate)

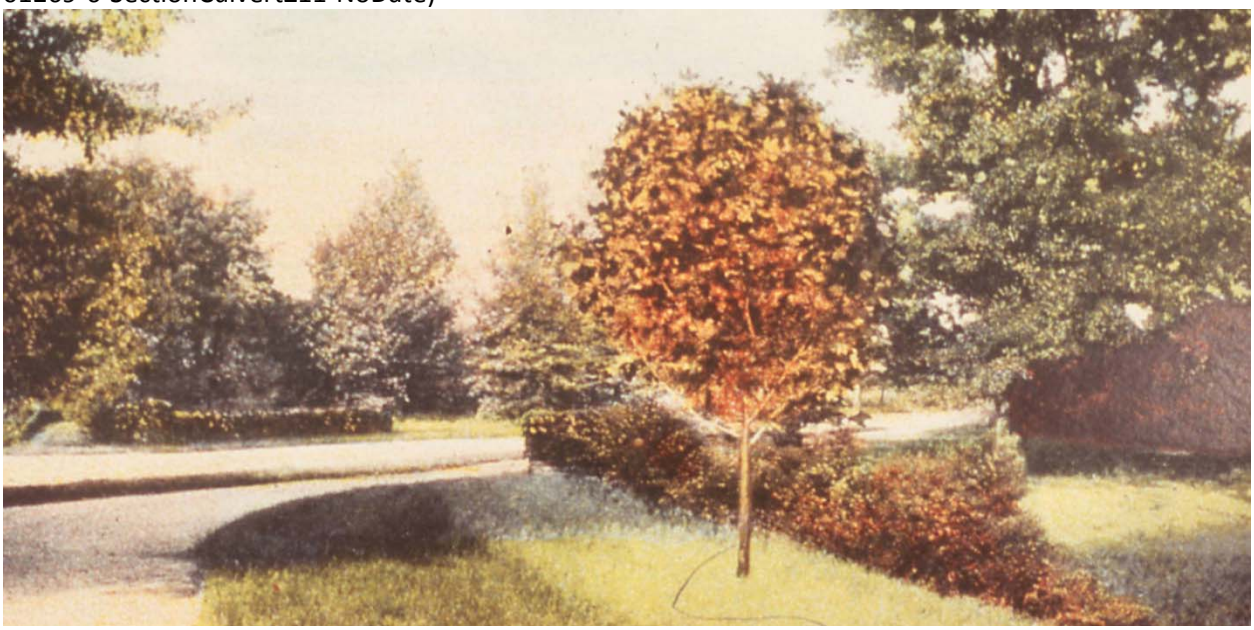
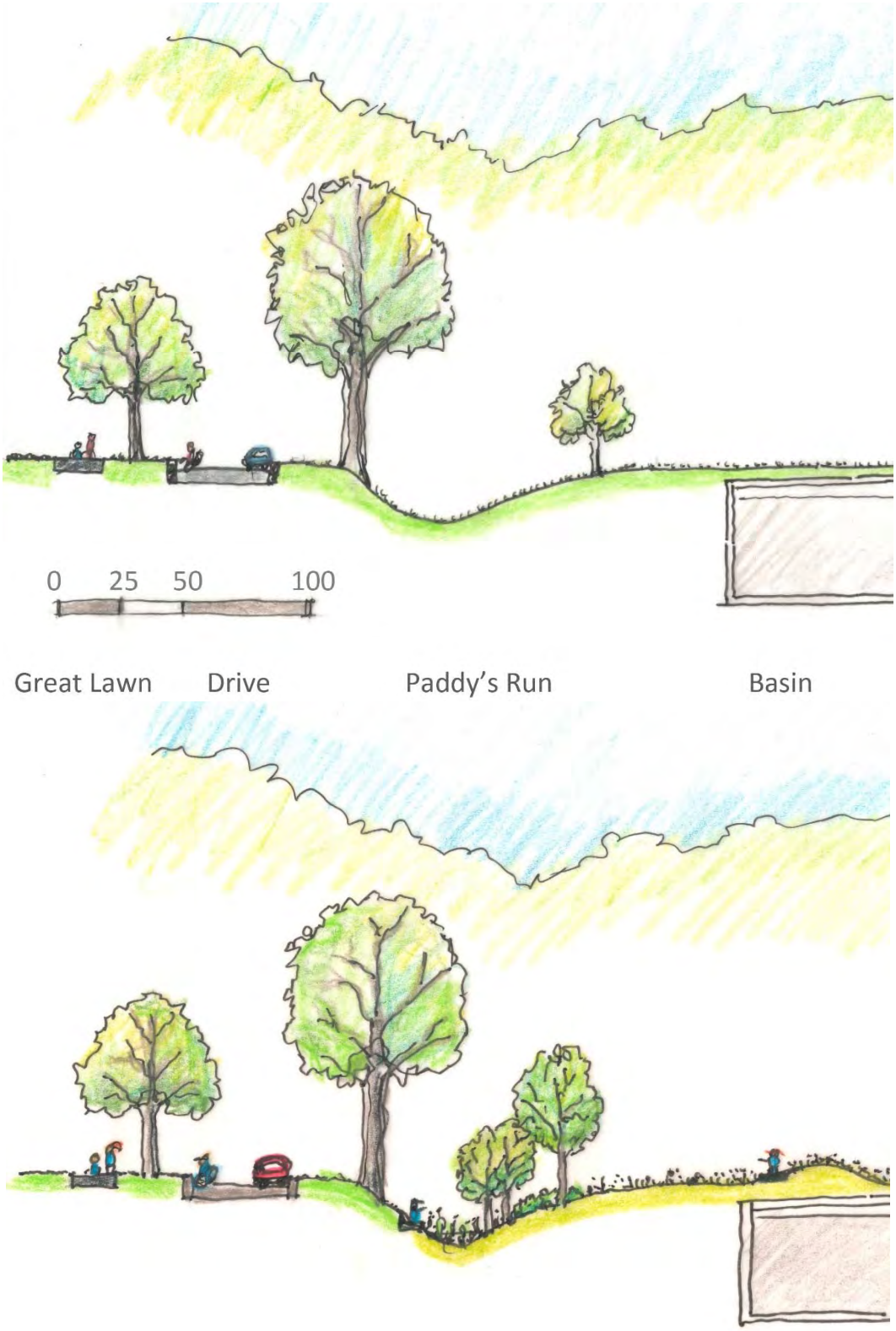


Figure 3.6 This detail of a c1920s postcard shows vines climbing the bridge walls and adjacent low shrubs extending into the landscape. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-Bridge and Roadway Postcard c1920)



Figures 3.7a and 3.7b These preliminary sketches show a lawn covered Paddy's Run post Basin construction or an intermittent stress, plantings and sloping meadow in Paddy's Run. (SP PaddysRun sectionlawn HL-POD 17Mar2015, SP PaddysRun sectionmeadow17Mar2015 HL POD)

Figure 3.8 This 2004 view of the Paddy's Run depicts the general character of this sunny valley with informally positioned shade trees as well as new planting, dropping some 20 feet below the adjacent perimeter and Great Lawn. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (R-SPU-LOPC-Paddy's run trees 2-2004)

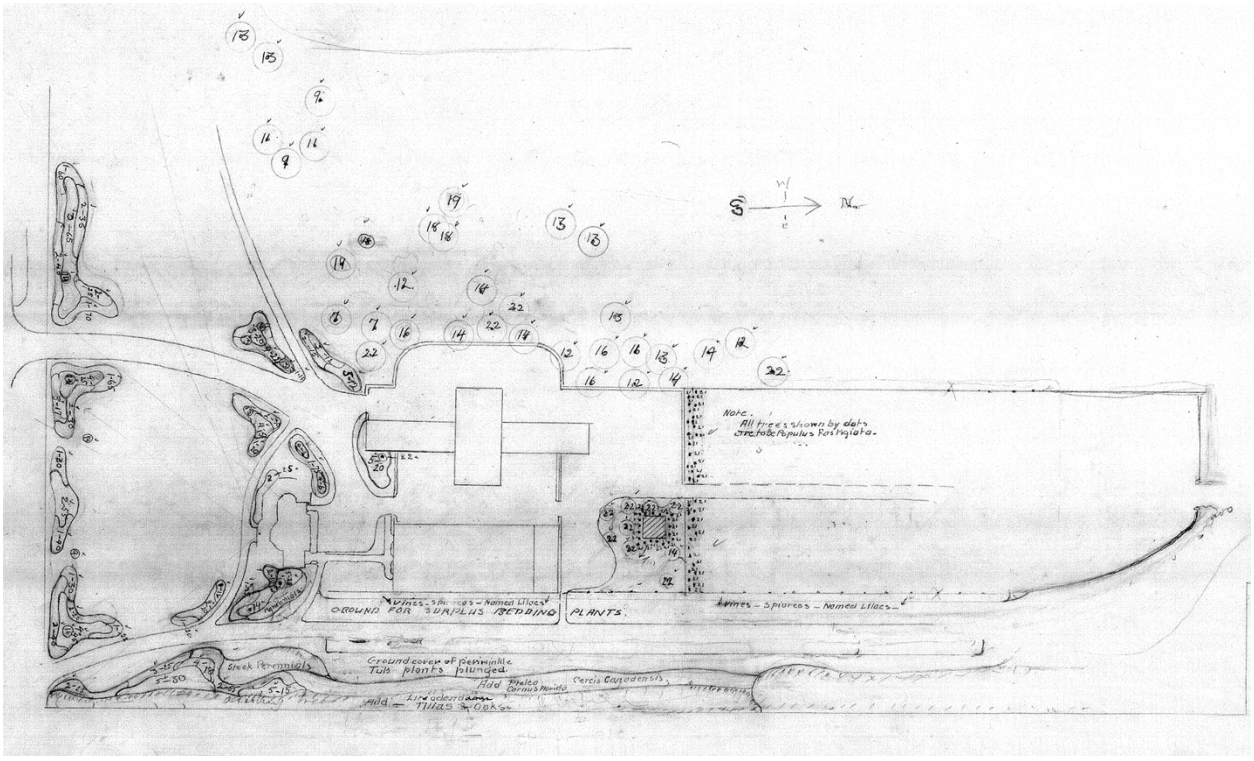


Figure 3.9 The sketch version of the 1896 planting plan for the Administration area shows the placement of shrub beds and trees that effectively created a visual barrier screening this functional zone from the park and the adjacent neighborhood. Courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. (R-SPU-FLONHS-01269-7-PlantPlan43-17Oct1896).

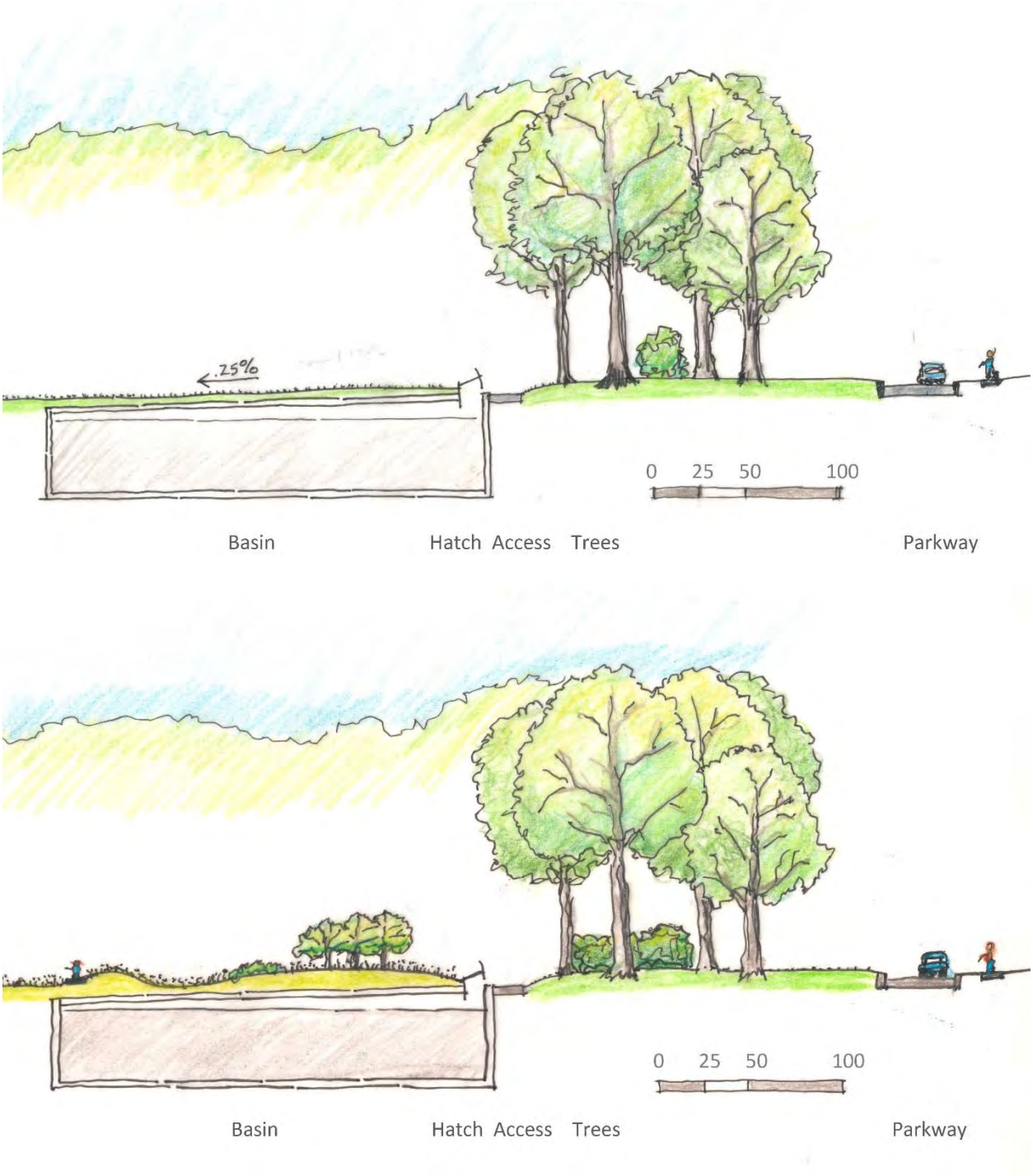


Figure 3.10a and 3.10b Depict preliminary sections of the Basin with landscape atop and adjacent showing one version with regularly sloping lawn and a second with gently mounded meadow, shrubs and small trees.

Figure 3.11 This detail of an historic postcard shows the more formal West Broadway entrance into Shawnee Park. The image illustrates the planned orientation of walks, drives, and views through trees and vegetation to the open lawns. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (SPU-LOPC-Entrance Postcard)

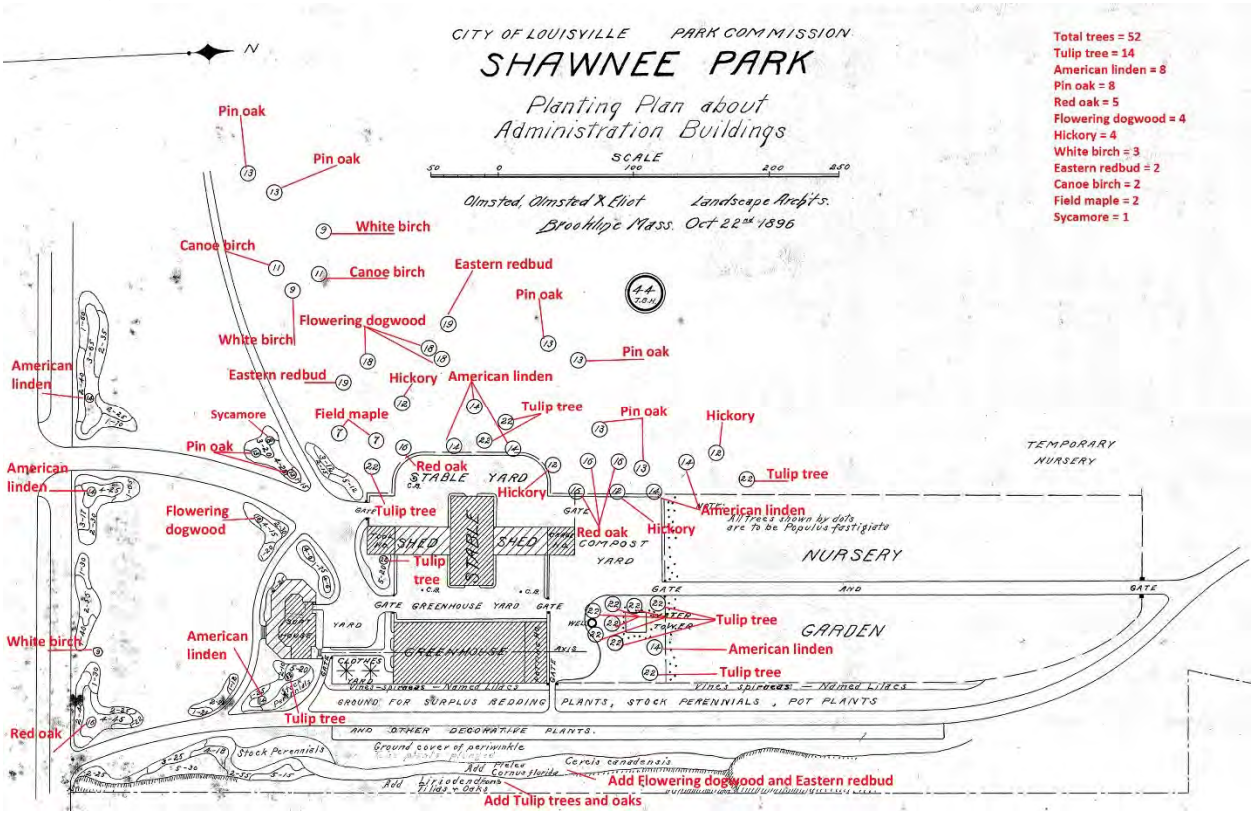


Figure 3.12 Labeled by Heritage Landscapes, the 1896 Administration area planting plan shows the various trees used to create a buffer between this and the rest of the park. 14 tulip trees dominate the total 52 trees. Courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, edited by Heritage Landscapes. (SPU-FLONHS-01269-7-PrelimPlan44-22Oct1896 detail w plants)

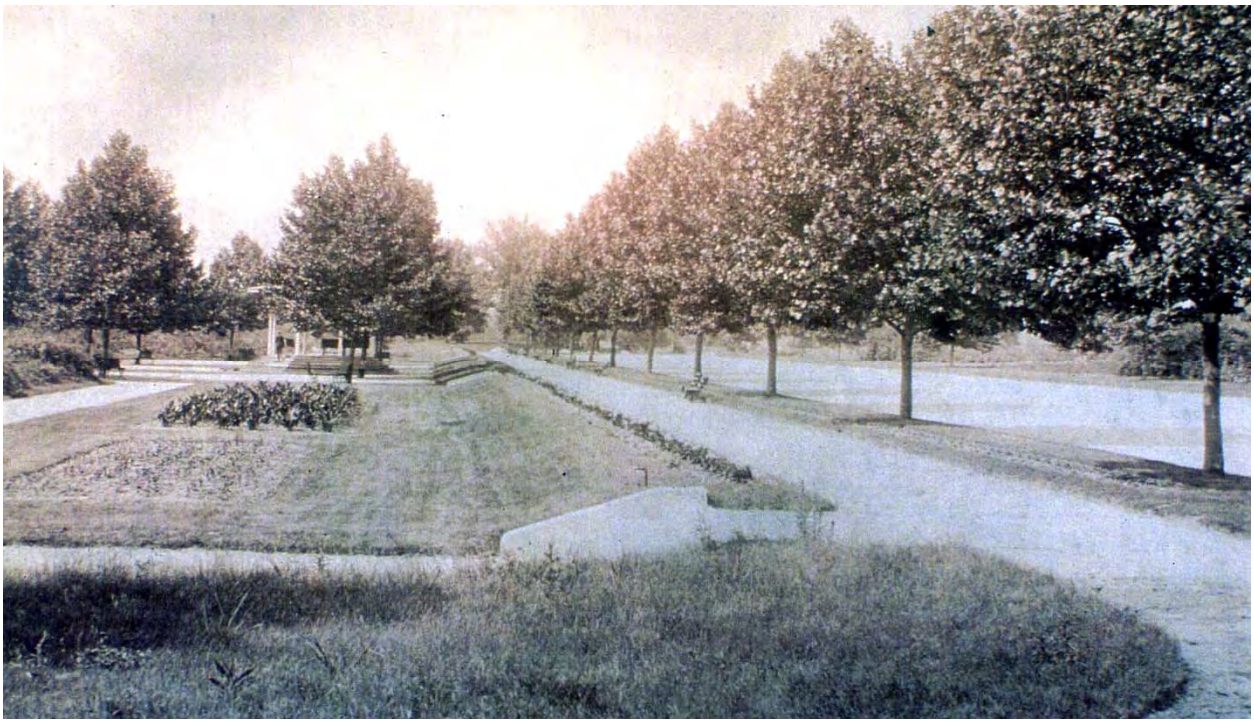


Figure 3.13 This photograph shows the Music Court bandstand and sunken rectangular flower beds located in the Middle Concourse. Four stairs with a low knee wall provide access from the higher walks and drives to the topographically depressed area. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (SPU-LOPC-Music Concourse stand flowers)

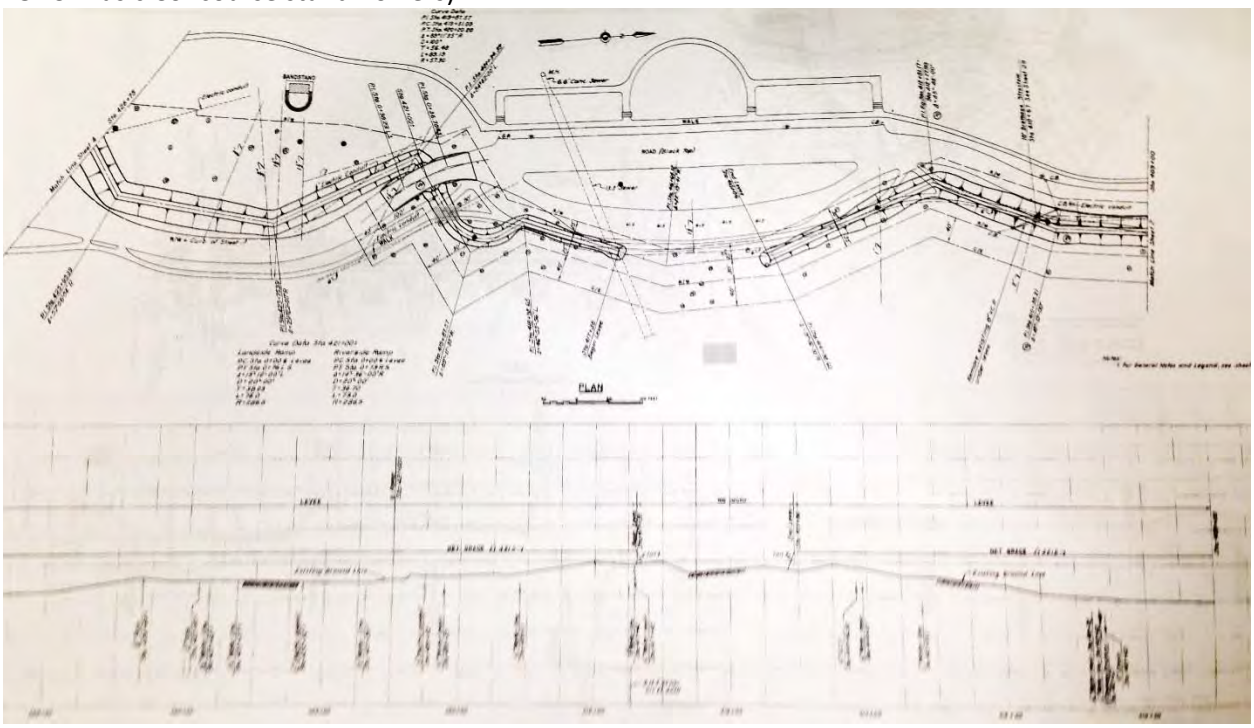


Figure 3.14 This plan illustrates the flood wall constructed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers along the Concourses after the devastating 1937 flood. Courtesy United States Army Corps of Engineers. (SPU-ACE-FloodProtection-April-1946)

Figure 3.15 Lilies cover the entire surface of the Lily Pond located in the southwest corner of the park. Four benches offer seating at the water features. Courtesy Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. (SPU-LOPC-Lily pond, turf)